



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



Gough Adet ✓  
Warwickshire

fr. 20.







**HISTORY**  
**OF THE**  
**FOREST AND CHASE OF**  
**SUTTON COLDFIELD,**

**INCLUDING THE**

**Border Districts**

**OF**

**GREAT BARR, PERRY BARR, EBDINGTON, CURDWORTH, WISHAW,  
MIDDLETON, DRAYTON, WEEFORD, AND SHENSTONE.**


*Compiled from the best accessible Sources.*

**L O N D O N :**  
**SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO., STATIONERS' COURT.**

**BIRMINGHAM: BENJAMIN HALL, HIGH STREET.**

**MDCCCLX.**

BIRMINGHAM:  
PRINTED BY BENJAMIN HALL,  
HIGH STREET.

 The editor is indebted for valuable information and literary assistance to the rev. W. K. R. Bedford, rector of Sutton Coldfield; Baron D. Webster, esq., of Penns; the rev. Montague Webster; and other friends; for which grateful acknowledgments are tendered.





# HISTORY

OF THE

## Ancient Forest and Chase of Sutton Coldfield.

**T**HE ANCIENT FOREST AND CHASE OF SUTTON COLDFIELD extended over a tract from seven to ten miles square, in the heart of England, on the north-west border of Warwickshire, and in the Hundred of Hemlingford. It was bounded on the south and east by the river Tame; and on the west by two little streams, one the Holbrook, rising on the western side of Barr Beacon and joining the Tame at Perry Barr Bridge, the other, bearing the names of Bourne and Blackbrook, rising on the eastern descent of Barr Beacon, and, taking its course to Shenstone, there bending sharply, and marking the northern boundary of the Chase to the Tame at Drayton.

From the ridge of Barr Beacon, which rises 750 feet above the level of the tide at Brentford, and runs due north and south, the land descends in successive undulations, and at Tamworth the river is only 150 feet above the tide level at Brentford.

In this district the sandstone shews itself on some of the low hills, where nature has been economical of a productive soil; but the meadows and marl tracts are well endowed, and cultivation has found an ample reward as it worked from the river upwards, until stayed by the stern pale of Sutton Park.

There the remotest antiquity entrenches itself, and our woods and heaths are the remains of a period when the wolf slunk leisurely down the tangled slope on which now stands Sutton; when the growl of the bear interrupted the

nightingale in Nuthurst; and the beaver instituted his canny Warden and Corporation on the Ebbrook.

The country abounded in woods of oak and holly, and was well watered by numerous small streams, rising within its own limits, and, after lingering in swamps, finding their way to the Tame. The Ebbrook drains the centre region near Sutton. The old topographer, Plott, supposed that the arch-druid resided on Barr Beacon, that the contiguous wilds received their denomination *Cyl* (a temple) or *Coel* (an omen or beacon), from the British tongue. *Coelmairn*, pronounced *Coelfine*, signifying stones of omen, *Col* (a sharp hill), and *Bar* (a summit) also offer British derivations for these names of Barr and Coldfield—the latter accommodated to the Saxons' experience of the air and the soil. Salmon, another writer in the past century, says, "there are lines drawn round the hill (Barr Beacon), on one side enclosing a large camp in form of a half-moon." Several stones have been removed from the northern side of the hill, near Aldridge, and one was destroyed by gunpowder. A few mounds yet remain: one, north of the church at Aldridge, on high ground, may denote the burial place of a chief. Two circular mounds are in a hollow of the Beacon, scarcely now reclaimed from a swamp, to the south of Bourne pool. The larger one is about seventy yards in diameter, and ten feet above the level of the surrounding land. There is no trace now of the ditch which was said to encompass it. These mounds are composed of sand. They are overlooked by the ridge of the hill, and were probably originally concealed by thick oak wood, and protected by a marsh. The larger one has been lately planted with trees.

An earthwork at the east side of Bourne Pool was described by antiquaries of the last century, as "enclosing an area of about eighty yards by twenty-five yards, the square eastern end being somewhat longer than the opposite end, which has at one corner an entrance across the surrounding treble ditch. The eastern end has an additional enclosure attached to it." The last sixty years of cultivation have almost destroyed the trace of these ancient banks and fosses. They were a mile distant from the Roman Ickneild Street. These places, if the abodes of early British settlers, may have owed their position in an ungenial region to some Druidical attraction on the hill.

The following particulars of the discovery of a warrior's

grave in this vicinity, on land now possessed by the Hon. E. Swinfen Jervis, are extracted from a correspondence obligingly communicated by Major Tennant :

From MR. HAMPER to DR. MEYRIOK.

"Deritend House, March 25, 1824.

"On the 12th of last month, as some laborers were removing earth from the side of a hill at Greensborough Farm, at Lower Stonall, they discovered, about six feet below the surface, a grave, cut north and south, in the sand rock, and shaped like one in a churchyard. Fragments of human bones, or a piece of decayed wood, about the size of two hands, were all that the excavation contained; but within a few inches of the west side were found lying, in the loose sand, two swords, some spear heads, celts, and several other relics, all of bronze, which, by permission of William Tennant, Esq., the owner of the estate, I submit to your examination.

"The large sword and spear head, and a celt, appear to have been broken by main force, probably when the remains of the warrior were committed to the peaceful sepulchre. By the desire of Mr. Tennant, my friend, Shirley F. S. Perkins, Esq., accompanied me to the spot on the 1st inst., when the grave was again opened by the same workmen.

"Greensborough Hill is a pleasant knoll, commanding an extensive prospect. The course of the Icknield Street was within a mile to the south-east, and the Roman station, Etocetum, about two-and-a-half miles distant, S.S.W. It is also midway, in a direct line between Wall and Barr Beacon. . . . We could not perceive any traces of circumvallation; but its site would offer great natural advantages for military defence; The valley on the south of the hill having been a morass, and the surrounding district having been covered with wood, as the name of *Bosses* implies.

"Near the surface of the ground, immediately over the grave, the skeleton of some animal was dug up, apparently of the porcine class, though, if a boar, no tusks were visible: but in our judgment, and in that of the laborers, it was a modern deposit.

There were drawings made of the twenty-two relics, and forwarded with this letter to the Society of Antiquaries.

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Sword, in two pieces.         | 10, 11. Cylinders.                |
| 2. Sharp sword, or dagger.       | 12, 13. Rings.                    |
| 3. Spear head.                   | 15, 16. Pommels of sword handles. |
| 4. Ditto, fragment.              | 17, 18, 19. Celts.                |
| 5, 6, 7. Ferules.                | 21. A lump of lead, found in No.  |
| 8. Ferule, in two pieces, broken | 10 or 11.                         |
| since it was dug up.             | 22. A lump of copper.             |
| 9. Spear head, fragment.         |                                   |

These are in the possession of Captain Tennant, R.N.

DR. MEYRIOK to HENRY ELLIS, Esq., *Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries.*

"March 30, 1824.

"Our friend, Mr. Hamper, has requested me to accompany this communication with some remarks of my own. . . .

"The materials of which the weapons are composed, viz., copper alloyed with tin, prove that they must be ascribed to the ancient Britons. The Romans, though they retained this compound metal for their armour, had, long prior to their invasion of Britain, fabricated their arms of steel; and the quantity of iron with which the mountains of the Baltic are so fully impregnated, had suggested its use to the Anglo-Saxons before their arrival.

"No. 1, the sword, called by the Britons *clledgyf*, and also the dagger, *clledgyfan*, exhibit in their hilts the rivet holes for fastening on what formed the handle. This in some instances was of the same material, but seems to have been generally of horn. . . .

"Nos. 17, 18, 19, commonly called celts, were the *boyellbaean*, or battle axes of the Britons, known to them before the invasion of the Romans.

"If I am right in my conjecture, those cylindrical boxes, Nos. 10 and 11, are the greatest curiosities in the collection. I presume they were each furnished with flat pieces on their tops, through which the butt-end of a lance might pass, and fit into the socket below, and thus form that sounding cylinder which was attached to the lances of some tribes of Britons, with the intention of terrifying cavalry. These balls were filled with little bits of metal that made a tinkling noise, for which purpose also were the holes in their sides.

"The sword pommels, and the hollow rod of office broken in two, are worthy of being engraved, as nothing of the kind has been previously exhibited."

If the neighbourhood of Barr Beacon were carefully investigated, probably further traces of aboriginal occupation might be brought to light.

That long lonely eminence which overlooks the country around, is such a height as was chosen by Keltic priests for their public sacrifices. Thither would resort the Cornavian Britons from clusters of beehive-like huts, embowered in woods. Here the oak became at once a temple and an object of worship, and from the summit of the hill the priests examined the luminaries of heaven. The red flame ascended from the Beacon; the arch-druid summoned to horrid rites; and man's blood was shed by a creed as cruel, perhaps the same, as that which brought divine vengeance on the nations of Canaan.

Maney Hill, a lesser eminence, has a name suggestive, not only of the early working of its stone quarries, but that on its head were probably stones (*meini*, Br.) arranged in a circle for Druids, or for their harmless successors, the British Bards. The latter held convocations termed *gorsed*, or assembly, within a circle, round which upright stones were placed. The Bards having laid a sword upon the high altar stone in the centre, proclaimed themselves men of peace, and recited their poems. The idea that such stones have been here is favoured by a popular tradition that, in early times, preparations were made for building the church on Maney Hill, but that, in the night, spirits always carried away the stones to the present site of the sacred edifice: as well as the fact that in the year 1853-4 a large stone was turned out of a hedge-row on the hill; it measured about five feet in length and two feet in width and thickness, and was of a fine grained, hard, dark, substance, apparently limestone or trap; but it was unfortunately broken up for the roads before its nature could be ascertained. It was much worn, and retained no marks of a tool.

At length the time arrived when the cruelties of civilized heathenism were made the scourge of barbarian crime. The

Romans invaded Britain with no object but conquest. They penetrated into its woody fastnesses. The natives boldly met them and fell—they rallied; but the disciplined Roman pressed forward; and after more than a century of struggles, the courageous but disunited tribes were subjugated, and Britain became a province of the Roman empire. The conquerors secured its possession by camps and entrenchments, roads and bridges. Our woods and swamps might have afforded a safe retreat for rebellious natives, but they offered little obstacle to the Roman legions when roads were carried through them.

The grand road which obtained the name of Watling Street (*Qwaith*, the work, *Lleng*, of the legion), from Dover to Chester, ran close on the northern boundaries of our Chase, over the Hints hills to Etocetum—now the village of Wall, near Lichfield. A native fortification had stood there, from which the Cornavii had been driven, and it was afterwards held by a Roman garrison. The palings of an ancient stockade have been dug up there.

At Wall the Watling Street was crossed by another military way, reaching from Southampton to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, called the Ickneild Street. This enters Warwickshire at Alcester, passes through Birmingham close by St. George's church, crosses the Tame near Perry Barr bridge, and runs across the Coldfield in a perfectly straight line to Etocetum. It is still to be traced over the bogs at the west side of Sutton Park, a wonderful memorial of engineering skill and enterprise. Here it shews itself raised high with gravel, and the pits whence material for the road was taken are frequent along its course. Diggings lately made have exposed the broken stones which formed its solid foundation, and fourteen centuries have not destroyed the outline. Its width is sixty feet, it has a gentle slope from the centre, and on each side is bounded by a ditch. For a mile and a half over the land of the Park, the Ickneild Street has remained undisturbed since the period of the Romans; but outside it has been effaced from the commons on the north, by the inclosure of 1825, and from Barr common on the south by the inclosure of 1855. Its course has been partially followed by lanes. The Birmingham historian, Hutton, speaks with enthusiasm of exploring the vast waste of Sutton Coldfield, and from the ridgeway near King's Standing, viewing at once two miles' length of the Roman way.

Some writers consider the name of Ickneild to have been the Saxon denomination of the old road through the *Ikeni* (head men) who had conquered the Coritani, and settled in Derbyshire, and that, supposing it correctly written, *Rickneild*, the additional *r* would only signify the further, or northern, *Ikeni*. A small earthwork near Wall may have been a Roman centry station on this road.

The subjugation of the tribes, effected by every variety of cruelty and oppression, was followed by their gradual civilization; whilst the Gospel, spreading from Jerusalem through the territories of Rome, made its way to Britain, and won to itself disciples equally amongst the conquerors and the conquered. Christianity reached this land in the purity of apostolic teaching. Welsh traditions say that the family of Caractacus were among its earliest converts. Its progress among the natives was for a time encouraged by the Roman governors, from a desire to counteract the practices and influence of the Druids. As civilization advanced, the borders of the Tame (Br. the *overflowing*) must have received settlers and cultivation. The names of some places seem to indicate their early origin: Drayton, from *Tref*, pronounced *Drav*; Minworth, from *Maenawr*, a place within stone boundaries; Curdworth, from *Curt*, a fortified place.

The persecution of the Christian faith reached Britain under Diocletian—[A.D. 94]—and raged ten years, when, it is said, a large number of Christians were slaughtered on the spot called Christian Field, near Lichfield. Native princes and bishops had been the founders of Churches before Constantine became the first Christian emperor. He favoured the Church in this island; but as Christianity was diffused in profession, it gradually lost its purity and power. Luxury and superstition debased it. The word of God, which at one time had been the rule of life to the Jew and the Greek, was neglected; and the rulers of the state were less acquainted with the requirements of God's law than had been the most illiterate pious Jew and early Christian convert. Corruption in morals and oppression met with no restraint; and a contemporary author says, "the just burthens of the rich are laid upon the poor, with an injustice unknown among the Goths." It is recorded by another, that the Britons ruined their country through the rapacity of their princes, the abandoned manners of the people, and their bishops' neglect of preaching. In the 5th century England

and Wales were divided, it is said, into thirty districts, governed by native princes under Roman chiefs, with a bishop in each state, who enjoyed much consideration. The people were then classed either as freemen or slaves.

After the departure of the Roman armies there appear to have been thirty independent states, under kings perpetually at war with each other—the most unscrupulous gaining the pre-eminence—so that this island was called the land of tyrants.

The vicious Gwyrthiern, or Vortigern—[A.D. 450.]—attained the ascendancy in his day, and to uphold his tyranny he invited the Saxon pirates to his aid, and thus opened a way to their conquest of his country, and the expulsion of its people from the soil.

The barbarian adventurers, whose name may have meant Sons of Sakai, were an important branch of the Scythian race, descended from Japhet, which had gradually migrated from the east of the Caspian sea to the shores and entrance of the Baltic; there they became pirates, and for ages desolated the coasts of civilized Europe.

Having discovered the disunited condition of the Britons, and the wealth of their land, they ceased not to pour armed multitudes into the island until they had made it their own. During more than two centuries the invasion was resisted by native princes: Arthur, one of the celebrated heroes, fought twelve battles to maintain his crown.

During these years of havoc the land felt the pressure of a heavier judgment than even the tramp of the Cæsars. The Northmen knew nothing of mercy. Christianity and the arts fled before them; and then, at the sound of advancing barbarians, weeping families may have rushed from the orchards at Perry Barr, and the groves of Erdington—from the pleasant farm at Minworth, and the villa adorning Drayton: their chariots, bearing all portable goods, meeting on the great highways at Etocetum, as they hastened from dwellings of luxury to seek in the rugged hills of Wales a refuge—an unquiet exile, amid privations and ceaseless war. If the escaped bondsman sought a summer liberty in our woods, the hunger of winter brought him again under the yoke—a Christian slave to a heathen master.

The character of the Pagan Saxons was that of fearless marauders. They desolated with fire and sword, and rejoiced



in peril. They were of large stature, with blue eyes and light coloured long hair. Their loose linen vests were adorned with trimmings, woven in various colours. Their outer garment was a cloak, and they wore shoes.

A new condition of things arose. The Saxons brought with them a few rude laws and customs, gloomy superstitions, and the worship of deceased heroes: and during the long period of struggle, they adopted some of the order which they had disturbed. As they won territory the Saxon war chiefs assumed the titles and privileges of the British kings, and they claimed the soil as their own. They reserved for their particular use large tracts, and enfeoffed their nobles with the remainder. Whilst they had occupied Germany, a portion of land was, for the season, allotted to individuals, and afterwards restored to the community, the more powerful having had the larger share, and a considerable tract near each settlement being common to the tribe. These customs were transferred to England, and Sutton has not yet forgotten her field-acres and commons.

Small kingdoms, beginning with that of Kent, were progressively established, and Christianity was revived, as obtained from the influence of enslaved British natives, or from the corrupted foreign source: and though the truth was overlaid with superstition, it shewed enough of divine light to expose the grossness of heathenism and to soften the manners of barbarians.

We now enter on the story of that family of the invaders, called Angles, who forced their way into the interior of the island, peopled our neighbourhood, and were at length formed into the kingdom of Mercia—a word supposed to be derived from boundaries. This state at length included all the midland and some of the eastern counties. One of its earliest kings, Penda, was a restless warrior and a persecutor of Christianity. [A.D. 665.] He was slain by the king of Northumbria, who thereupon built a church and founded a bishopric at Lichfield. Dwina was the first bishop of the Mercians, and Chad one of the earliest preachers among them; he became bishop in 669. And, under the son of Penda, Christianity was professed and encouraged.

Ethelbald, the Proud, was a sovereign who greatly increased the power and fame of Mercia. [A.D. 716.] He waged an obstinate warfare with the Britons, who inhabited Wales. He claimed to be *bretwalder*, or emperor, over the other

Saxon kings. Boniface, an Angle, archbishop of Metz, in a long letter to this prince, praises his charity and justice, and reproves his immoralities. He writes, "spare your own soul, spare a multitude of people perishing by your example, for whose souls you must give account."

This king afterwards gave charters to monasteries, and one of them exhibited the doctrine then inculcated when it said, "that he has felt the necessity of considering how he might, by good works, set his soul free from every tie of sin." He was beaten in an engagement with the West Saxons at Sekendon—[A.D. 755.]—where the tumulus over the slain is still conspicuous; and afterwards he was treacherously slain. In his days Leofric, earl of Chester, flourished, from whom the Saxon earls of Mercia and Warwick claimed descent.

After the province had suffered many troubles, Offa was made king of Mercia, and he speedily extended its power. By the Welsh, whom he partially subdued, he was called "the Terrible." To secure his acquisitions on their borders, he cast up a vast fortified entrenchment, extending from Chester to the Wye, called, to the present day, Offa's Dyke; and, after another destructive battle at Rhuddlan, the Welsh became his vassals.

Offa subdued all the Saxon states south of the Humber, and his victorious midland troops added the opulent city of London to Mercia. But he acquired East Anglia by an act of the basest treachery, and the murder of its beguiled and confiding young prince; who, seeking a daughter of Offa for his wife, was assassinated—[A.D. 792.]—whilst partaking hospitalities, perhaps at the royal residence at Tamworth. Jealous of Kent, he obtained from the Pope that the archiepiscopal see of all the Mercians should be moved from Canterbury to Lichfield. Mercia had five bishoprics. But after his death the succeeding Pope annulled the whole proceeding. Lichfield remained a small place during the Saxon period; for, after the Norman conquest, when it was ordained that bishops should quit villages and reside in cities, its bishops migrated to Chester, and afterwards to Coventry.

Offa permitted the learned Englishman, Alcuin, to visit and remain at the French Court, where he became tutor to the wise, but illiterate, Charlemagne. That monarch, who designated himself the greatest prince of eastern Christendom, styled Offa the most powerful king of the west.

To secure the succession, Offa summoned a great council of the clergy and nobles, and, with their assent, he associated his son Edric with himself on the throne.

He made Tamworth his usual residence, and though the royal palace has been destroyed for several centuries, its site may be traced in the castle gardens. There are coins extant struck at his mint at Tamworth; they excel in workmanship those of any other Saxon monarch.

Amongst the wastes reserved by Saxon princes for royal sport, the forest wilds of the Coldfield would not be unfrequented when a king resided on its borders at Tamworth or Kingsbury; for, as it is read, to the latter place a great Witena-gemot was summoned by a later king. And as the Saxons, when not engaged in war, were devoted to the chase, these woods and heaths have doubtless witnessed many raids on their ancient occupants, the wolf, the wild boar, the ox, and the red deer.

Sutton probably originated in a few dwellings for officials of the chase, and acquired the name from being the most southern hunting station, reckoned from Tamworth, or from its lying on the south side of the hill.

Beautiful Sutton!  
Wast thou not cradled  
Far in the forest,  
Beneath the hill cliff,  
Where the tall oak trees  
Gathered around thee,  
Raising their fond arms  
To bless thy repose?  
Did not thy little hands  
Play with the young fawns,  
Gazing upon thee  
With seer-like eyes?  
What heard they stirring  
The blossom-bush nigh thee?  
What saw they flicker  
The stream at thy feet?  
Only the song-bird  
Awaking the chorus;  
Only the sweet breath  
Of winds from the south.

After a reign of forty years Offa died—[A.D. 795.]—and was buried in Bedfordshire, on the Ouse, and not where the tumulus at Swinfen bears his name. His efforts to raise his family at the expense of justice failed, and the last survivor ended a life of crime as a beggar in the streets of Pavia.

Cynewulf, a succeeding king, dated a charter from his palace at Tamworth, and waged a cruel war with Kent and Wessex.

Bearwolf carried his Mercian subjects into unsuccessful wars with Egbert, a prince of Kent, and with the east Saxons, by whom he was slain. [A.D. 800.] After his death Mercia lost its independence, and retained only a nominal king.

Egbert, who had seen many troubles, and profited by them, soon became Bretwalder of Britain. [A.D. 827.] But the subordinate chiefs still held the right of making war on each other, and good government and national power could not exist. From the court of Charlemagne, Alcuin wrote to warn his countrymen of their danger, and entreat them to take example from history; but in vain. And the heathen Danes soon became their unwearied scourge. The land was again desolated with fire and sword. The *Guida*, or *Death Song*, over one of the sea-kings, celebrates his depredations, and says, "the sight was pleasing to my heart, as when my blooming bride I seated by me on the chair of state." Although Jutes, Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes, joined in the expeditions against England, the Saxon states would not combine to resist them. Thus the enemy, having prevailed in the north, crossed the Humber and entered Mercia, took Nottingham, and all East Anglia, where king Edmund, refusing to deny his faith, was cruelly martyred, and in every place Christians were put to death with tortures. [A.D. 870.]

England had suffered extreme misery when Alfred, its celebrated champion, succeeded to the throne of the West Saxons, and of the empire. His queen, Elswitha, was the daughter of a Mercian nobleman, and was descended from Mercian sovereigns. In one year he fought nine pitched battles, and lesser combats, with the Danes. But new fleets of adventurers were daily arriving. The barbarians entered Mercia again and wintered at Repton, where they burned the fine monastery, the burial place of several Mercian kings. [A.D. 874.] Burshed, then king of Mercia, fled in dismay. His people negotiated a treaty with the Danes, and received as ruler a Thegn name Ceolwolf, after which they never regained the appellation of a kingdom. All but the peasantry fled from the plundered country, and these were miserably oppressed until the Danes themselves removed the governor. Perhaps the recesses of our woods concealed a few poor fugitives from the rapacity of the enemy, and the holly hursts closed their thick bowers over many weary limbs and aching brows. The old Barr Beacon might often redden the midnight with its warning glare,

in reply to the bale-fire on Cannock Chase, until Alfred had gained such advantages over the invaders that he was enabled to prescribe terms to them, and allow them to settle in the east and north of England. [A.D. 878.] Warwickshire was not ceded to them. In occupying territory the Danes began to profess Christianity. Their dialect and their names have been engrafted on our northern counties. Alfred placed his daughter, Elfrida, and her husband, Ethelred, in command of the province of Mercia. England advanced in improvement. The king had, with difficulty, himself attained to some learning, and he therefore used every exertion to convey the advantage to others, and especially to the clergy, whose character and teaching he sought earnestly to improve. The learned Mercians—Plegmond, Ethelstan, and Warwulf—and celebrated foreigners, were invited to his court. He founded schools, and, to confer religious knowledge on his people, translated some portions of the Scriptures, as well as other pious works. He revised and improved the laws, and, as Egbert had previously done, he divided England into counties, and sub-divided them into hundreds. Alfred laboured for the benefit of his people with unremitted zeal, until he sank under the disease which had been the painful companion of his exertions during the whole period of his unquiet reign. He died at the age of fifty-four. [A.D. 902.] He must be ranked with the most wise and benevolent of monarchs, and the most indefatigable and self-denying of patriots.

We will now view the state of England united, as the country had been for many years, under one sovereign.

The supreme legal tribunal was the Witenagemot, a kind of House of Lords. Ethelred, with the consent of Alfred, convened at Gloucester all the Witen of Mercia—bishops, ealdermen, and all the nobles.

The Sciregemot had a bishop, ealderman, and inferior persons.

The Fokgemot was established for tradesmen.

Frankpledge was the regulation by which the lower classes of people were formed into companies of ten freemen or more, for the preservation of peace and law: mutually responsible for each other's appearance, in case any were accused of a crime. The investigation by the scire-gerif, or sheriff, of these companies, in order to maintain their numbers, was called the View of Frankpledge.

The earliest Saxon laws betray a higher appreciation of property than of life. Murder was only punished by fines to the family of the deceased and to the state, in ignorance of the rule given to our forefather, Noah, "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

The Ware and the Mund were the protection and privilege of each man. The Ware was his valuation according to his station in life, which, in case of his murder or injury, was paid by the offender. The Mund was his right to such protection.

Much of the judicial proceedings rested on oath, therefore the punishment of perjury was severe. Superstition led to the ordeals of fire and water, in the attempt to discover a difficult case. If, after thrusting the hand into boiling water, or carrying a weight of red-hot iron, the limb shewed no very ill effects, the accused person was pronounced innocent. Great opportunities for fraud occurred in these modes of detection.

Although trial by jury was not the established Saxon law, the principle was at times acted on.

The three great burdens on land were the Fyrde-fœrelde, the Bryge-geweorc, and the Weal or Foesten-weorc.

The first consisted in the providing of a certain number of armed men, proportioned to the rated quantity of land, who were to fight under the king or his officers. Five hides of land usually found one soldier. The custom of Warwick was, that ten burghers should serve for the rest; 100s. was the forfeit for each; and death was the punishment for desertion from the army when the king led it.

The other two taxes on land were for the building and repairing of bridges and forts.

The land was also subject to many other levies from sub-proprietors. The powerful sometimes seized provisions. So, in one grant, it is engaged that the king should not, on that estate, require his pasture; nor the entertainment of foesting men: nor of those who carried hawks and hounds. The lords of the land were little sovereigns over their manors, and were termed *drythne*, i.e., lords, and held on their estates their own courts of civil and criminal jurisprudence. The spirit of the feudal system was gradually introduced—a union of northern customs with Roman law. The homage, or "becoming your man," was brought from the forests of Germany. It bound the man to follow his protecting lord. For this allegiance he received perhaps

a steed, a purse of gold, or a grant of land. The term *fief*, or *feud*, is a corruption from the Roman law term, *emphyteusis*. The term *vassal* was applied to any one holding land under a chief lord.

Property was transferred by a very simple ceremony. Sometimes, if land, by cutting a turf and throwing it into the lap of the purchaser; or, if a house, by delivering the key. And tokens of right, such as a glove, or a horn, were preserved in the place of written documents. King Athelstan is said to have granted large tracts in Cumberland by the following lines:

"I, King Athelstan, give to Pollen,  
Odeham and Rodeham,  
Als quid and als fayre,  
Als ever they mine wear,  
And yor to witnes, Maude my wife."

There were *ethlings*, or nobles, by birth and by landed property. Five hides of land, a church and kitchen, a bell-house and burghate seat, and an office in the king's hall, rendered a man a thane, or *thegn*. At a later period the title of earl superseded that of eolderman.

The occupiers of land were termed *ceorl*, *geneat*, *tunesman*, &c.

The freeman might be a servant, but he could change his master, and he was exempt from the ignominious punishments which attended the slave.

The slave was bought and sold with or without the land; but it became a charity, induced by Christianity, to manumit this oppressed class. There is a will, by a lady Wynfleda, which sets free the daughter of Burhulf, at Cinnuc (Can-nock?), and Æthelgythe, at Colleshylle, and several others.

Land was distinguished in law by various names, as *boc-land* (under a grant by book), &c. The hide contained from sixty to 120 acres, and was supposed a sufficient quantity to maintain one family.

In Cambridgeshire, in the year 960, land was bought at one shilling per acre, or six pounds for a hide; and Adelwolf, abbot of Ely, usually gave that price, or less; but once having paid forty shillings for a parcel of land, "which no man in his senses would value at more than twenty shillings," this extravagance, and some attendant expenses, led him to cry out against the wickedness of the times, and the ambition of the laity.

About that time a sheep was valued at a shilling—that is, one shilling and threepence of our money—an ox, six

times the value of a sheep; a cow, four times the value; and horses were sold from twelve to thirty-six shillings. The most numerous farm animals were the swine. Thus, a nobleman bequeaths, by will, a hide of land and 100 swine; and to a priest, 100 swine, for the good of his soul; and to another priest, the same number of swine; and to his daughter, two thousand swine. These herds were fed in the woods.

The clothing of the Anglo-Saxons was of wool; linen was but little used, and silk and cotton were unknown. They used no wheeled carriage, except a rude cart.

Christianity, in a degree, influenced the laws of the Saxons. Enactments were made against some heathen practices, and for the furtherance of religion. As an instance, any slave might be set free whose master had compelled him to desecrate the sabbath day. There was a severe code for fast days. If a master gave meat to his servant on those days, he was liable to the pillory. In 658, Honorius, archbishop of Canterbury, ordained parishes. Burials in churchyards were first permitted in 752. Tithes were appointed to be paid to particular Churches in 970. But through general neglect of the source of truth, holy scripture, the faith inculcated by an ignorant clergy bore but a distorted resemblance to the revealed will of God, and had, in consequence, little power to raise the people to the standard of gospel morality. A neglect of clerical fees was taught to be amongst the deepest sins, and liberality to monastic establishments the highest of virtues. In 1013 the abbot of Peterborough purchased the supposed body of St. Florentine, all but the head, for £50, and made an offering of it to Christ and St. Peter. No respectable person could make a will without seeking pardon for his sins by bequeathing bounties to a monastery, for the good of his soul, and of the souls of his ancestors. Flagrant vices were but little restrained, and oppression, cruelty, and sensuality, were the features of the time.

The Saxons loved song, and roving minstrels were in much favour; but their compositions did not improve the characters of their auditors; and coarse amusements tended to the retaining of barbarous manners. Drunkenness grew inveterate. Learning was despised. Young nobles were educated only for war and the chase. Trade and agriculture were unnoticed by the government at most periods, and exorcisms were resorted to for the purpose of improving the land.



Some dialogues, written in Saxon, by order of Alfred, represent the different employments of the working people. The ploughman says :

"I go out at daybreak urging the oxen to the fields. It is not yet so stark winter, that I dare keep close at home, for fear of my lord. I have a boy to threaten the oxen with a goad, who is now hoarse through cold and bawling—it is a great labour because I am not free."

The shepherd says :

"In the first part of the morning I drive my sheep to their pasture, and stand over them in the heat and cold, with dogs, lest the wolves destroy them."

A herdsman says :

"All night I stand watching the oxen in the meadows, on account of thieves."

On the death of Alfred—[A.D. 905.]—the crown was contested by his son, Edward the Elder, and his nephew, Ethelwald : Mercia remained true to the son of Alfred, and Ethelwald entered the province, and plundered it. The Danes had been repulsed on the Severn many years before, by the eolderman Ethelred, with his Mercian army. [A.D. 911.] The invaders now again crossed the country towards that river, but Edward, with Mercian troops, drove them back.

The brave Ethelred, who had governed Mercia with almost royal power, now died—[A.D. 912.]—and his wife Ethelfleda, worthy of her father, King Alfred, remained sole ruler of the province. Foreseeing dangers, she secured every point of defence. [A.D. 913.] The Saxon chronicle states that "she and all the Mercians went and built the fort at Tamworth (where she raised the keep on an artificial mound), in the fore part of the summer; and before Lammas, that at Stafford; in the next year, that at Eddesbury; and in the same year, that at Warwick; in the following year, that at Chirbury, and that at Warburton, and that at Runcorn."

She afterwards sent an army into Wales, stormed Brecknock, and made prisoner the wife of the Welsh king. [A.D. 916.] The chronicle adds, "this year, with the help of God, Elfleda conquered the town called Derby, with all that thereto belongs (from the Danes)—[A.D. 918.]—and there were also slain within the gates four of her thanes most dear to her." She then won the town of Leicester; and the people of York had promised submission, when she died at Tamworth. [A.D. 920.] "Then rode king Edward, her brother, to the borough of Tamworth, and all the people of Mercia turned to him, both English and Danish. He ordered a Mercian army to Manchester, in Northumbria, to man it, and repair it."

On the death of Edward the Mercians recognized Athelstan as sovereign, and he again subdued some of the Welsh princes, and united to Mercia all the country between the Severn and the Wye. In a bloody battle he conquered the Danes—the Mercian and London troops being under the valiant Mercian chief, Turchill, who decided the victory. On this a Saxon poet writes :

“The Mercians, too,  
The hard hand-play,  
Spared not to any  
Of those that with Aulaf,  
Over the briny deep,  
In the ship's bosom,  
Sought this land  
For the hardy fight.”

Athelstan framed some good laws, and enacted that each of the royal manors should be subject to an annual charge for the relief of the destitute. The steward, or *reeve*, was once a year to redeem a slave. This charitable act must therefore have been a privilege of Sutton.

His brother, Edmond the Athling, or Prince, succeeded him. [A.D. 942] The Danish king, Olave, from Ireland, headed the Northumbrians, penetrated as far as Tamworth, stormed the town, and, after much slaughter, carried it, and gave it up to pillage. But after another bloody battle at Leicester, terms were concluded, and Mercia remained for a time internally at rest, whilst fearful contests were carried on in the northern states.

The church of Rome had increased her influence over the Saxons, and at this time she insisted on the celibacy of the clergy. In the reign of Edwy the clergy and people were instigated to rebellion by the talented monk, Dunstan, and the Mercians made Edgar their king—[A.D. 959]—who extended his power so far that at Chester he received as his vassals, Kenneth, king of the Scots; Malcolm, king of the Cumbrians; Maceus, the Dane, king of Mona; three kings of the Welsh; and two kings from Galloway and Westmere; who then used the declaration, “I will become thy man, I will love what thou lovest, and choose thy will, &c.” This supremacy was not preserved by the successors of Edgar.

Alfere, the eolderman of Mercia, was the chief leader of the party which opposed Dunstan, and expelled the monks from the province. At length Dunstan, recovering his power, a conference was agreed on. Both parties attended at Colne in great strength, when Dunstan called for a miracle to favour his cause, and immediately the floor

of the room gave way in that part on which his adversaries were placed, and they were killed or injured in its fall. A grave suspicion rests upon Dunstan of having contrived this mode of discomfiting his enemies.

Alferic, who had succeeded his brother Alferic in the earldom of Mercia, engaged in a conspiracy against king Ethelred, the Unready. He twice betrayed the cause of his country, and deserted to the Danes, upon which, to avenge the crime of the father, the king put out the eyes of his son.

Every attempt to buy off the Danes encouraged a fresh invasion; every effort to arrest their progress failed, through delay and mismanagement; and the undisciplined militia of England did more injury to their country than to their enemies.

Ethelred married Emma, sister of the duke of Normandy, and her French attendants abetted the Danes. In the year 1002 the king gave the wicked and inhuman order for the massacre of all the Danes within his power. This horrible atrocity was accomplished, and was heard of with universal detestation. It was followed by a lengthened retribution. The king, feeble and immoral, was incapable of judicious measures. He appointed his mean and profligate son-in-law, Edric Streone, to the vice-royalty of Mercia, over its own nobles. Civil war overran the country; not a chief was left who was able or willing to assemble a force—each fled as he could; and not one shire would support another. The Danes conquered sixteen counties, and obtained the payment of £48,000, *i. e.*, the price of 771,056 acres of arable land.

The king ordered the population of Mercia to take the field instead of gathering in their harvest. The faithless Edric joined the enemy, with all his muster; and the king fled to Normandy, leaving Sweyne, the Dane, master of England. On his death—[A.D. 1014]—the English recalled Ethelred, on conditions of reform—in which we see the germ of Magna Charta.

During the ensuing period of treachery and strife, Mercia was plundered on its borders by English rebels and by foreign invaders; but it remained true to king Ethelred and his successor, Edmund Ironside. The latter five times raised an army against Canute, but was at length betrayed by Edric, and murdered. [A.D. 1017.]

Canute then reigned over England, and confirmed the base Edric in the vice-royalty of Mercia. The Mercian

noble, Leofric, earl of Chester, at that time ruled his district with remarkable vigour. His wife was the beautiful Lady Godiva, who obtained from him privileges for the people of Coventry.

At length, in a quarrel with Canute, the traitor Edric was struck down, his body was thrown into the Thames, and his head was placed on a spike over the highest gate in London.

Canute treated the English as a conquered people, and they gave their oppressors no rest. He made Leofric his captain general. Taxes were levied with great vigour. If the assessment were not paid by the end of the third day, the land was seized and sold for government.

On the death of Canute, Leofric, earl of Mercia, by some called duke, espoused the cause of Harold Harefoot, the supposed son of Canute, and he was recognized as king of Mercia and Northumbria, whilst Hardicanute was acknowledged in Wessex. The succeeding reigns were marked by murders and revenge.

When the Saxon line, in the person of Edward the Confessor was restored by the aid of Leofric—[A.D. 1041]—the king's long residence in Normandy having given him a partiality for that country, Frenchmen and their customs and language were made familiar to the English. The king was surrounded by foreigners; and whilst the nation was distracted by factions, the few strongholds of the realm were garrisoned by French and Norman soldiers. Leofric, wise and wealthy, was, in conjunction with earl Siward, of Northumbria, the support of Edward's throne; especially against the insolent earl Godwin, nephew of Edric the Traitor, who had obtained enormous wealth and power. Leofric died—[A.D. 1057]—at an advanced age. His son, Algar, carried on the contest with Godwin.

The state of society, and the character of the Godwin family, may be inferred from an outrage committed in revenge for an insult received at a banquet in king Edward's hall at Windsor. Harold, one of the sons of Godwin, was serving his royal master with wine, when his brother Tosti, in a fit of jealousy, seized him by the hair of his head. Still in violent anger, Tosti hastened down to Hereford, where Harold had ordered preparations for the king's entertainment. There he captured his brother's servants, cut off their heads and limbs, and threw them into the casks of wine, mead, ale, and cider, intended for the sovereign's use. The crime was suffered to go unpunished.

This Harold, the son of the humbly born Godwin, ascended the throne on the death of Edward. [A.D. 1066.]

Morcar and Edwine, the grandsons of Leofric, possessed great influence; the one in Northumbria, and Edwine, who married the sister of Harold, in Mercia: but the Battle of Hastings—[A.D. 1066]—terminated the Saxon power in England, and gave the crown to William, duke of Normandy, who had been chosen by his kinsman, the late king Edward, as successor to the throne. The earls of Northumbria and Mercia were not present at Hastings, though they had been forward in repelling the previous invasion of the Norwegians.

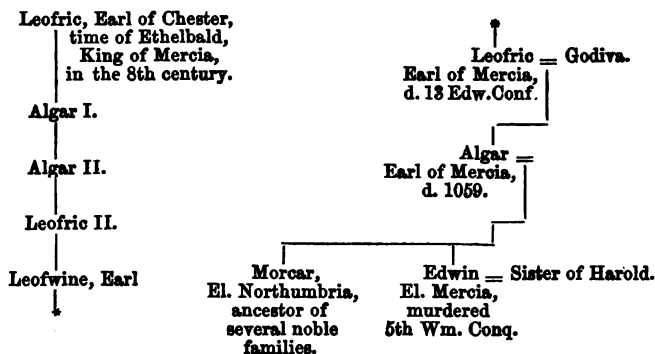
For the last three hundred years Saxon writers had remarked on the seasons, and we learn the following particulars. The winter of 763 was thought unparalleled for severity. The frost lasted from the first of October to February. Most of the trees and shrubs perished.

In 793 there was a great famine and mortality. From 820 to 824 there were severe seasons, with pestilence, and mortality of men and cattle. Many perished from cold.

In 976, with a severe famine, the frost continued from the first of November to the end of March.

In 1005 there was a great and dreadful famine, and a similar one in 1043-4.

Here may be given particulars of the two great families who, in the later Saxon age, held the Sutton Forest:



The pedigree of Alwine, earl of Warwick, commences with Arthgal, one of the famous knights of king Arthur's Round Table, and the first earl of Warwick. The syllable *Arth*, in his name, signifies bear; and he took the bear as his ensign, which has ever since been the badge of the earls of Warwick.

Mowidius, his successor, was a man of great valour. He is said to have slain a giant in single combat, who, to encounter him, had pulled up a young tree by the roots, and stripped it of its branches: for which the victor was assigned by the heralds the cognizance of a ragged staff, in silver, on a sable shield. Another earl, we find, in the days of Alfred and Edward the Elder, named Rohund, was a famous warrior. His only child, Felicia, married Guy, son of Siward, baron of Wallingford. This Guy became earl of Warwick, in right of his wife, and was so celebrated that the Welsh claim for him a British extraction. One of his traditionary exploits was his combat with Colbrand, the Danish giant, whose people, after ravaging the land, offered thus to decide the claim to the crown. King Athelstan, at Winchester, was in dismay, as his most trusty knights were absent. Heraud de Ardene was beyond sea, in search of Reynburn, the son of his lord, sir Guy, who had been stolen by foreigners, and carried into Russia; earl Rohund was dead; and sir Guy was on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In this dilemma the king received the promise of a palmer, humbly performing his vows in the church, that he would meet the insulting foe. The king and his court, and all the trembling populace, gazed from the walls of Winchester; the camp of Danish warriors surveyed the field from the other side. Their champion advanced to the combat so heavily armed that his steed could scarcely carry the weight; and before him was drawn a cart loaded with terrible weapons. At the first encounter, a stroke from the giant chopped off the head of the pilgrim's charger. Recovering his feet, the alert palmer aimed at the crest of the Dane, but could only reach his shoulder. In the fury of the fray the monster dropped his club, bossed with iron, and the palmer took that opportunity of striking off his hand. Notwithstanding this discomfiture on his right, the vigorous giant plied the fight until sunset, when loss of blood obliged him to faint, and the champion of England cut off his head. Then ran the Danes, and rejoiced the English. The palmer refused all honours, and only in confidence to the king revealed the name of sir Guy. He then repaired to Warwick, and, unknown, received for three days alms of his sorrowing countess, who daily fed thirteen poor people. He then retired to a cell in the rock, since known as Guy's Cliff, and after passing two years there as a hermit, he felt the approach of death, and sent his wedding-ring to the lady Alicia, who buried him, with all honours, in the year 929. Her son,

Reynburn, inherited her paternal lands, and the earldom of Warwick. Having been carried into Russia in his childhood, he had signalized himself on the continent by many deeds of valour, and maintained the family honour. On his return to England he married the lady Leonetta, the beautiful daughter of king Athelstan. He died near Venice, and was buried at the same place. He left as his successor Wayeat, or Weyth, the Humid, a devout man, as was also his son Ufa, or Huve, the Humid, to whom succeeded Walgeat, who was in special favour with king Ethelred; but for his wicked oppressions was deprived of all his lands, in the year 1006. It does not appear whether or not they were restored to him, but Warwick and a great part of the county was shortly after wasted by Canute. Wigod, his hereditary successor, was a potent lord in the reigns of Ethelred, Edmond, and the Danish kings. He married the sister of Leofric, earl of Mercia. To him succeeded Alwine, contemporary with King Edward the Confessor. In the Domesday Survey he is called Alwinus, vicecomes, either because he exercised the power of his uncle, the earl of Mercia, here in Warwickshire, as his ancestors had done as deputies and reputed earls, or else that he had the custody of the county to the king's immediate use.

This Alwine left issue Turchill, a great man in those days. He was vicecomes to Edwine, grandson of earl Leofric, who is, in an ancient MS., styled *Comes Warwici*; but, as in Domesday Book, the profits of the shire are all reckoned to the king, it should seem these vicecomites were immediate officers to the king, and not to the earls of Mercia.

Turchill resided at Warwick, and is styled by the Normans *de Warwici*. He was the first Englishman that adopted the Norman fashion of surnames; and he wrote himself *de Eardene*, from the Arden, or woodland district in which his estates lay. He had not rendered assistance to Harold in the Battle of Hastings, and he continued to possess great estates, no less than forty-eight manors in this county, besides others elsewhere. But though employed to strengthen the castle of Warwick by William, he was not entrusted with it. At that time it belonged to the earl of Mercia, or the king. All his domains were wrested from his son, and his descendants held some few of the manors only by military service to the Norman nobility. This ancient English family, from whom several of our noble families are descended, sank into private life, and their further pedigree, to the present day, will be found under the history of Peddimore, one of their estates.

We will endeavour to discover the circumstances of the Sutton Forest at the time of the Conquest. During the Saxon period of six centuries the rights of the Chase were reserved to the Mercian kings, or to the Mercian earls, who latterly were the viceroys of the kings of England, and who sometimes resided at Tamworth, and perhaps at Kingsbury. From them the earls of Warwick, who had become connected with the earls of Mercia, may, perhaps, have held the Chase. Grants in fief to inferior landowners had been made from time to time, so that the more fertile borders were in cultivation, and were valued in Domesday Book as follows:

In Perry Barr there were three hides, held by Drogo.

At Witton, one hide, valued at 20s.

In Erdington, three hides, valued at 30s., a mill, rated at 3s., and woods, one mile in length and half-a-mile in breadth. It belonged to Edwine earl of Mercia.

Minworth contained one hide, and woods, half-a-mile in length and three furlongs in breadth. It was the freehold of one Godwin, and in the Conqueror's time was possessed by Turchill de Warwick.

Curdworth contained four hides, and woods, half-a-mile in length and less in breadth; the whole being valued at 50s. One Ulvinus held it.

Marston and Coton were rated at three hides, held by one Roger, under Turchill de Warwick.

Wishaw, possessed by one Ordric, contained two hides, a church, and woods, three furlongs in length and one in breadth; the whole valued in the Confessor's days at 30s.

Middleton had four hides, the inheritance of one Palinus, in Edward's days. There was a church, and a mill, valued at 20s.; the whole valued at six pounds.

Drayton was a lordship of Algar earl of Mercia, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and contained five hides.

Shenstone contained three hides, a mill, rented at sixty-six pence, a wood, three miles in length; and was held by one Godwin, a freeman, with a few working men.

Sutton was, in the reign of the Confessor, in possession of Edwine earl of Mercia. It is rated at eight hides; the woods extending two miles in length and one in breadth, and all is valued at four pounds.

Wiginshill contained three yard-land, with wood, two furlongs in length and breadth, possessed by the earl of Warwick, and from him held by one Bonning, whose freehold it had been before the Conquest.



Besides the woods here specified as the property of the landowner, there were the outwoods, which were spread over the forest. It may be noticed that in all this region there were but two churches, one at Middleton and one at Wishaw. The heaths of the Chase extended over the ridge of Barr Beacon, and were in part separated from Cannock Chase (*cynnic*, or the king's?) by the enclosures of *Aldric* (the old domain). Bogs intersected the undulations of the land, and formed a chain of defence through the centre of the district, feeding the little stream Ebrook (*Ea*, water), which ran at the foot of Sutton.

The dwellings here required by the higher and lower officers of the chase became a village. Any number of buildings received the appellation *ton* (which had a relationship to the Celtic word *din*, a fortified hill, and *dun*, a Danish word for hill); the houses were all built of wood. As Erdington belonged to the same chief lord, there would be a road of communication formed across the bog, possibly the irregular one which now intersects the pools called Holland. There were direct roads to Tamworth, Shenstone, Drayton, and Middleton, but as Lichfield and Birmingham were not as yet of sufficient importance to maintain particular communication the fine Ickneild Street road, which ran straight from Birmingham to the immediate neighbourhood of Lichfield, was deserted; for neither village nor house was raised on it between Perry Bridge and the village of Chesterfield.

The English people had to rue for many long years the national sins which brought on them a foreign yoke.

No Englishman was allowed to occupy honours or office under the crown; every oppression was exercised, especially against the poor; and cruel tortures were inflicted to compel money ransoms. So that towns were depopulated, the land was untilled, and famine was added to the other curses. The former lords of the land were reduced to poverty; and frequent insurrections made their condition more degraded. The new possessors of their property entrenched themselves in fortified mansions, and so numerous did castles become, that after Stephen had caused 700 to be dismantled, there were in the next reign 1,115 standing.

The Normans, like the Saxons, were descended from the fierce adventurers of the North. About the year 900 they had forced the French king to cede to them a province; and, settling in Normandy, they maintained a great reputation for military prowess. They brought with them their language,

which mixed itself with that of the Saxons, and they introduced a higher appreciation of literature and the arts; that of architecture was rapidly advanced after their occupation of England. They also riveted on this island the continental feudal system.

From the prodigious slaughter of the English nobility at the Battle of Hastings, and the fruitless insurrections of those who survived, the forfeitures of estates were so multiplied that William became master of almost all the lands of England. In the nineteenth year of his reign danger was apprehended from a Danish invasion, and amongst the measures of defence adopted was the making a general survey, in 20 William, of all the estates in the realm. William also called all his nobles to Sarum; and there they submitted their lands to the yoke of military tenure, became the king's vassals, and did homage to his person. [A.D. 1086.]

Every man then became a tenant, obliged to defend his lord, and his lord's rights and territories. It is thus considered a principle (though in reality a fiction) that the king is the proprietor of all the land, in the kingdom, and that no man can possess any part of it but what has been derived as a gift from him, to be held upon feudal services. Later kings found it expedient to remit the severer grievances of the system: but as there remained intolerable burthens, which successive Acts of Parliament failed to remove, James the First applied remedies, and at length the military tenures were destroyed at one blow by the statute, 12 Charles II.

On the settlement of the feudal tenures the whole kingdom was divided into 700 chief tenants, who held their fiefs, or fees (which signified wages), on condition of supplying the crown with a certain number of knights, who held allotments of land from the chief tenants. There were then 60,215 knights' fees. According to some authorities, four *ferlingata* (furlongs) made a *virgate* or yard-land (measured land, i. e., twenty-four acres; four virgates made a hide; and five hides made a knight's fee. A hide, or plough-land, was enough to maintain one family and employ one plough, some say equivalent to 200 of our acres, but it varied considerably. The *carucate*, in the time of Edward II, was about 100 acres, as were also the hide and the soca. In Domesday Book the arable land is estimated in corucates; the pasture in hides; and the meadows in acres. A plough-land, or hide, might contain houses, mills, woods, and pasture.

*Soc* (*liberty*), a lordship with liberty to hold a court. Its tenants were *soccagers*. *Sachem et Socham* differ only in degree of power granted.

*Manor*, an ancient lordship, formerly called barony, consisting of demesnes and services, and of a court baron.

*Royalities*, rights of the king. Also rights granted by the king to the church, or lands granted by the king to the church.

*Demesne*, the lord's chief manor-place, with the lands thereto belonging, occupied for the lord's benefit. All parts of a manor, except what are in the hands of freeholders, are said to be in demesne, or domain.

*Forinsecum manerium*, that part of the manor outside the town, and not included in its liberties.

*Court baron*, inseparable incident to a manor, which every lord or baron of a manor hath in his own jurisdiction.

*Court leet*—(ite, Sax.), a little court, in whose manor soever kept, is accounted the king's court.

*To wage law* was, when a man gave security that he would *make law*, i.e., take a solemn oath that he was not guilty of the offence, or did not owe the debt with which he was charged.

*To make law with the third hand*, was to bring two other men to swear besides himself.

*Rent of assize*, the certain established rents of the freeholders and ancient copyholders of a manor, which cannot be departed from or varied.

*Tallage*, toll, any tax; a sort of land tax on cities and burghs, in use before the reign of Richard II.

*Escoin*, an excuse for not appearing to answer a summons of court.

*Decernarium*, a juryman of the court.

*Bedell*, a crier or messenger of the court leet.

*Infangthefe*, liberty of the lord of the manor to judge a thief, one of his tenants, within his fee, and taken within it.

*Ufingthef*, liberty to the lord of the manor to punish a thief taken within his manor, whose felony had been committed out of it.

*Weyf*, stolen goods, unclaimed, belonging to the lord of the manor.

*Tumbrell*, ducking stool for scolds, brewers, and bakers.

*Housebote*, or *estover*, an allowance of timber out of the lord's woods, for repair of tenements.

*Haybote*, allowance of wood for repair of fences, posts, &c., *bote* signifying recompence.

*Pannage*, hog's food in woods.

The *villan* took his name from village; he had some stock of his own, and paid rent to his lord, partly in money, partly in labour. His tenure was called *villanage*. The villans having been permitted to enjoy their holdings in a regular course of descent, the law enabled them to hold their lands by the *custom* of the manor, which, being copied into a court roll, their tenure was *copyhold*. They were called *customary tenants*.

Inferior to these were the *borderers*, or those who had built a cottage, or *bord*, by leave, on their lord's land. They had a few acres, and supplied their lord with poultry and small things.

Beneath these was the class of slaves. *Thewe*, a slave, was part of his master's goods. Over this class some of the great lords had power of life and death, and of their property.

Land was under seven burdens—*heriot*, *relief*, and *escheat*; *wardship*, *scutage*, *marriage license*, and *homage*.

On the demise of a royal or private vassal, a *heriot* was due to his superior lord. That of an earl was eight horses, four furnished for war and four unfurnished; four helmets and four mails; eight lances, eight shields, and four swords; that of a royal thane little more than half of the above: of a common thane it was a single horse furnished, and the arms of the deceased, or 100s. in lieu of both.

The *relief* was a fine discharged by the heir for the renewal of the grant of the estate. It was for an earl, 300 mancuses of gold; and for an ordinary thane, about two pounds. The villan gave his best beast for a heriot and fine together.

*Wardship* was the right of the superior lord to the estate during the minority of the heir, or until the marriage of the female heir.

*Scutage* was a fine in lieu of a personal attendance on the liege lord in war.

*Homage* was performed by the heir immediately on the restoration of his fee, when he knelt before his lord and, placing his hands between those of his superior, swore to be true to him, &c.

The service rendered by the cultivator, instead of fixed money rent, will be seen by the following example:

"In the reign of Edward I, one Adam Underwood held of the Earl of Warwick one yard-land, in Brilles, and paid yearly rent for the same, seven bushels of oats and a hen: being to work for the lord of the manor from Michaelmas-day till Lammas, every other day except Sunday, viz., at mowing, as long as that time should last, for which he was to have as much grass as he could carry away on his scythe: and at the end of hay harvest, he and the rest of his fellow mowers to have the lord's best mutton, except one, or 1s.4d. in money, with the best cheese, save one, or 6d. in money, and the cheese vat wherein the same

cheese was made full of salt : as also that, from the said feast of Lammas till Michaelmas, he was to work two days in the week, and to come to the lord's reap, with all his household, except his wife and his shepherd, and to mow down one land of corn—[Our fields are now ploughed into lands.]—being quit of all other work for that day : that he should likewise carry two cart loads and a half of the lord's hay, with seven cart loads of stones, for three days, and gather nuts for three days : and in case that the lord should keep his Christmas at this manor, he to find three of his horses meat for three nights : that he should plough thrice a year for the lord, viz., six selions, and to do the same tillage within twenty miles : and, moreover, to make three quarters of malt : giving for every hog above a year old one penny, and for every one under a halfpenny—[Swine feeding in the woods.] : and, lastly, that he and the rest of his tenants here should give twelve marks to the lord at Michaelmas yearly, by way of aid, and not marry his daughter nor make his son a priest without license from his lord."

The latter was a usual restraint in villenage tenures, that the lord might not lose the service of one of his villans by his entering into holy orders.

Until the reign of Edward III, the denomination of money was not altered. A pound sterling was a pound troy, *i. e.*, about three pounds of our money. There were forty-eight shillings in the pound ; and five-pence in the shilling ; a mark, or mancus, was thirteen shillings and four pence, as Bishop Fleetwood records.

## Forests.

A Forest is a territory of woods and pastures, known in its bounds, its chase, and warren, under the king's protection, for his pleasure of hunting game and wild beasts. There must be bounds, as hill, river, highway, and in the eye of the law the boundaries go round like a wall, directly in a right line, the one from the other : and if any one kill a deer in the boundary road or river, he is an offender as if he killed within the forest.

The Forest laws are peculiar—different from the common law of England. Before the *Charta de Foresta*, in the time of King John, offences committed therein were punished at the pleasure of the king in the severest manner.

The first property of a Forest is that only the king can possess it : but he may make a grant to any one to be a *Justice in Eyre* of the Forest. And only the king can appoint a justice in eyre. The eyre (from *ire*, to go) was the travelling justice seat, where pleas of the crown were heard. And the second property of a Forest is its courts, justice seat or eyre, swain-mote, a court for the people of the Forest, and the court of attachment. The third property is its officers ; the Justices of the Forest, the warden (or warder), who had the principal government of all things belonging to a royal forest, the verderers (or Foresters), agisters, regards, keepers, bailiffs, beadies, &c.

If the swaine court failed, the forest became no more than a chase. In it the freeholders within the forest appeared thrice a year to make inquests and juries.

No man could cut down timber in his own wood without inspection of the forester or the woodward. Fences were to be kept low for deer to spring over, and graze at pleasure. Common of pasture was allowed to all cattle but sheep, which bite too close.

A chase is between a forest and a park, not endowed with so many liberties as a forest. It may be in the hands of a subject, and it is larger than a park, and not like a park enclosed. A man holding a freehold in a fee chase may cut his timber without view of any, which was not allowed in the Sutton Chase, where, owing to its having been a royal forest, the earls of Warwick had a right to restrain the cutting down of woods in the freeholds upon it.

Warren (*wahren*, Sax., custody) is a place privileged by grant from the king for the keeping of beasts, or fowls, of the warren.

Stable-stand was a place where the lord stood to shoot the driven deer.

To drive the wanlass (*wanlass* or *windass*) was to drive the deer to a stand that the lord might shoot.

Buck-stall was a toil to take deer, not to be kept by any person not having a park of his own, under penalties.

In the early Norman reigns no Englishman was allowed to hold a fee in capite, *i.e.*, to become a chief tenant, and very few were permitted to hold knights' fees. The earls Edwine and Morcar had vainly endeavoured to withstand William in Warwickshire and Northumbria. Edwine was treacherously slain. The Saxon earls of Warwick ceased to be represented. Turchill no longer retained the office and the honour of earldom, but, as he had not opposed the Conqueror, he was left in possession of his estates during his life. King William kept Sutton Forest in his own hands for a time, as appears by the survey, in the twentieth year of his reign.

The first earl of Warwick of the Norman race was Henry de Novoburgo, taking his name from the castle of Neuburg, in Normandy, the place of his birth. He was the younger son of Thomas de Bellocampo, or Beauchamp, earl Mellent, and was made earl by the Conqueror, towards the end of his reign; and William Rufus conferred on him, after the death of Turchill, the whole of that English nobleman's inheritance; and the new earl even laid claim to what the monks of Abendon had, in Hill and Little Chesterton, by gift from Turchill; so that the abbot was glad to make a new agreement with him, and purchase his good will with a mark of gold, on which he confirmed the grant, in the presence of his barons, *i.e.*, his great tenants. This earl was a special friend and supporter of Henry I, and died in the twenty-fifth year of his reign. [A.D. 1124.]

His son Roger espoused the cause of the empress Matilda, whose descent from the Saxon Kings and from the Norman line gave her the claim to the English throne. His only warlike exploit was the conquest of Gowerland in Wales. The English king having been unable to subdue the Welsh, offered all that should be won to those who had gained it, and this, as obtained by the sword, was, by permission, held under the absolute rule of the victor.

Henry I exchanged the lordship of Sutton, with earl Roger, for manors in Rutlandshire, by a written deed, 26 Henry I :

"To have and to hold the said manor of Sutton to the said Earl Roger and his heirs, with all the liberty and royalty, without suits at the hundred court, without payment of scutage, or any foreign service, with a free chase between the Tame and the Bourne, which divide the liberty of the said manor from others: And the said Roger and his heirs may have one park and one hay fenced: And they may have a free court at their own pleasure, in all free customs, with view

of frankpledge: Also they may have an outwood [*boscum forinsecum.*] common to the freeholders, without a fence keeper: Also they may have in demesne two carncates of land, and one water-mill, with suits—[i. e., the customs belonging to it.]: Also they may have eighteen fallow deer.”

The latter clause intimates that fallow deer were scarce, perhaps having been but recently imported. It does not here appear that any yearly rent was reserved to the king and his successors: therefore it might be under some other agreement; for in the sheriff's accounts of 23, 24, 25 Henry II there is the statement of 39s. per annum to the king from the farm of Sutton; in 26 Henry II, 17s. 10d. *de perquisitis*; in 30 Henry II, 39s. from the farm; in 31 Henry II, 52s. from the farm. In the two last some arrears may be accounted for, as 39s. was the standing rent ~~or~~ farm. The mill was at the foot of the town; where one stood until the close of the last century, and gave the name to Mill Street. Tenants were obliged to grind all their corn at the lord's mill, and pay heavy exactions on it. It is probable that the manor house was built at an early Norman period; courts might then be held in it, and the pompous train of a king or noble could there be entertained. The little hill offered a suitable position, strengthened by the prolonged morass which was formed at the foot of the manor place into two large pools. Between them a raised causeway, still to be seen, dividing the meadows, led to the park; and at the end of the lower pool, an embankment, walled up with stone, still called the dam, and only partially destroyed when the new road was made in 1826, formed a communication with the town. After which the manor house appears to have been the focus of the early roads.

The bounds of the chase extended to the Tame and Bourne, and so, consequently, out of the bounds of this county as they now stand, and beyond the limits of the lordship; for that which bore afterwards the name of chase was then a forest. And this appears by a special inquisition taken in 3 Edward II, where the jury say, upon oath, that they had heard their ancestors affirm the same. The ancient kings of England, before they limited themselves by *Carta de Foresta*, in 9 Henry III, might, and did, make forests where they pleased. And by the same inquisition, the following bounds of the chase were stated:

“Sez sount lez boundes trovez de la Chace de Sottone en Colfelde, et se commencez á la teste de Bourne; dekes a Boltestile; et dekes tank á la Tindit-hoc; et dekes tank a Mosewall; et dekes tank a le Holebrok; et dekes tank a le Thame; et dekes tank a Wolford brugge; et dekes tank á Schrafford brugge; et dekes tank a Wyford; et dekes tank á la teste de Bourne.”

We must look for the “teste de Bourne” at Bourne pool,

under the Beacon; and over the ridge for the three obscure points—Boltestile (a stile into an inclosure), Tindithoc (*tyne*, brushwood, *hoc*, hook? or, perhaps, *hoch*, a hill), and Mosewall (an embankment against a bog?), which lead to the Holbrook, on the west side of the Beacon: and following this stream we find Holford, or Perry Barr bridge at the holm, or island or meadow, formed by the river. Schrafford became Salford bridge. It is not improbable that Wyford was Wigford, or a ford near the junction of the Bourne with the Tame at Drayton; *wig*, or *wick*, signifying the bend of the river.

That the earls of Warwick held this extent of chase, with all privileges anciently belonging to it, will appear from further testimonies.

After receiving the grant of the manor of Sutton the earl gave three yardland, lying in Hill, to the Priory of Canwell. He died 18 Stephen—[A.D. 1153]—in which year Henry, the son of Matilda, came into England to assert his claim to the throne; and Gundred, his widowed countess, turned the soldiers of Stephen out of Warwick castle, that the rightful heir to the crown might be welcomed.

In a bull of pope Alexander—[A.D. 1162]—mention is made of “three hides of land in Sutton (Warwickshire), which the countess Gundred, with the consent of her son, William earl of Warwick, gave to the Priory of Trentham.” No other notice of this gift appears, however, in any record.

William, the son of Roger, succeeded his father. Of him were held 105 knights’ fees. He died in Palestine, 30 Henry II. [A.D. 1184.]

Waleran, his brother, was his heir to the earldom and estates, and had prolonged trouble in defending his possessions from an impostor, who assumed to be the elder brother returned from Palestine. About the beginning of king John’s reign, the lord Basset, of Drayton, a great baron in these parts, made a park at Drayton Basset, which, being within the precincts of this chase, and questioned by earl Waleran, lord Basset was obliged, rather than pull down his palings, to come to an agreement with the earl, in 3 John—[A.D. 1201-2]—as follows:

“This is the final agreement between Waleran, Earl of Warwick, plaintiff, and Ralph Basset, holder of one inclosure in Draiton, which the said earl says was raised to injure his forest of Colmesfeld: whereupon a plea of convention was summoned between them before the justices of our lord the king, at Coventry, namely, Master William de Kilkenny, and the lords Henry de Barton and Nicholas de Trye, to wit, that the aforesaid earl has granted, and in behalf of himself and his heirs, cried quits to the aforesaid Ralph and his heirs, for the aforesaid fence, and the whole park of Draiton enclosed in that fence: And for

this grant and peaceful dismissal, and crying quits, the aforesaid Ralph, for himself and his heirs, has granted to the same earl and his heirs, two good bucks, in any year, from the aforesaid park, taken between the Assumption and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that is to say, of every buck the four limbs and head, with the hide and forket—[The wide part of the chest.]; so that the aforesaid Ralph and his heirs, by themselves, or by their messengers, cause the bailiffs of the aforesaid earl, or his heirs, to have the two bucks aforesaid at the manor of the earl himself at Sutton, as is aforesaid, between the two feasts aforesaid: And it must be known that the aforesaid park of Draiton shall be so closed up, that the whole of it shall be entire towards the aforesaid earl's forest of Colmesfield, and without a buck-stall."

To this agreement were witnesses—Thomas de Erdington, then sheriff of Staffordshire, Geoffry Sauvage, Hugh fil. Willielmi (of Hatton), Thomas de Arderne, Rob. fil. Willielmi, Hen. fil. Sewalli (progenitor of the Shirleys), Hugh de Cuilli, Henr. de Ullenhale, Alexi de Mildecumbe, Jordan de Whitacre, and divers others.

And that the succeeding earls of Warwick held it as their free chase, the several licenses that they granted to different persons in their own peculiar lands and woods, lying within the precincts of the chase, sufficiently shew.

Earl Waleran died in 6 John—[A.D. 1205]—and his countess Alice gave a fine of £1,000 and ten palfreys, that she might continue a widow as long as she pleased, and have the custody of her own children, and enjoy her dowry.

Henry, the eldest son, succeeded. He was loyal to king John in turbulent times; and that prince visited his manor house on Sutton Chase, as is shewn by the date of a royal command issued from Sutton, April 7, 1208. The king had also an assured servant in the neighbouring lord of Erdington, who might assist in rendering the entertainment agreeable to the courtly guests.

We cannot forbear to quote here from a graceful little poem on Sutton Park, by an ardent admirer of its scenery, and an accomplished scholar, the late Charles Barker, Esq., B.C.L.:

"Before us winds the rural way  
Across yon stream with alders gay,  
Up yonder gorse-crowned hill:  
Yet press not on with careless haste:  
Nor without pensive thought be past  
The former glories of the waste,  
And charms that haunt it still.

"See to the left how plays the breeze  
On the steep mound and towering trees,  
Whence oft the royal John,  
With hound and horn and hunting spears,  
Sallied to rouse these woodland lairs,  
And in the chase forgot the cares  
That only kings have known."



Earl Henry afterwards continued firm in his adherence to the succeeding king, Henry III, and was at the siege of Mount Sorel castle—[A.D. 1216-17]—and at the storming of the castle of Leicester, where the royal arms were victorious over the opposing barons. He also attended the king in the siege of Bitham, the castle of the earl of Albemarle, in Lincolnshire. Some of his soldiers were of course furnished by the hamlets on Sutton Chase. On the advance of the army into Wales he paid to the king £49. 12s. 5d., when the Sutton manor would have to find its share of the impost. During his minority king John had given his inheritance of Gower, in Wales, to William de Breuse, concerning which the succeeding earls had great suits. He died 13 Henry III—[A.D. 1228-9]—and Philippa, his countess, paid 100 marks to the king, that she might remain a widow, or marry whom she pleased.

Thomas, his only son, paid £100 for his relief, £40 of which was for his lands in Warwickshire. He died, without issue, 26 Henry III. [A.D. 1242.] Ela, the widow of Thomas, had the manor of Sutton, with other lands, for her dower. Her second husband, Philip Basset, of Oxfordshire, was one of the peers who, in 29 Henry III, laid before pope Innocent IV—[A.D. 1245]—letters from the English nobility and commons, representing the great oppressions under which this realm suffered by the court of Rome. He was taken prisoner, with king Henry III, at the Battle of Lewes, 49 Henry III; in which year he had a grant from William Manduit, earl of Warwick, of the manor of Sutton Coldfield, to hold during his life, in case he should survive his wife; which was confirmed in 54 Henry III. [A.D. 1269-70.] Ela was a benefactress to the University of Oxford; and, like all other proprietors of land, a large contributor to monasteries.

In the agreement made 31 Henry III—[A.D. 1246-7]—between John de Plessets, who had married Margerie Mareschall (daughter of earl Henry, and heiress to the earldom of Warwick), and William Manduit and Alice his wife (aunt, and afterwards heir, of Margerie), it was accorded that the same John de Plessets, in case he survived his wife, should enjoy this manor and others during his life; but the countess Ela was then living, and, in 32 Henry III, Philip Marmion, lord of Tamworth castle, brought an assize against her for common of pasture within this lordship, perhaps on the borders of Middleton, where he had previously claimed free warren, but had been denied it on account of the superior claim to free chase by Ela, then holding Sutton, of which, in 36 Henry III,

she had a special charter of free warren granted for life, in all her demesne lands here, as also in other manors of her dower. She died in 1300.

Charters had been first introduced, after the Norman fashion, by Edward the Confessor. The seal was also Norman, and in Henry the Second's time the Chief Justice of England reproached a commoner for using a private seal, which, he said, pertained only to the king and nobility.

Margerie, sister and heir of earl Thomas, was a widow, and becoming possessed of Warwick castle, king Henry III proposed to take it into his custody, unless she married as he should appoint. Accordingly, she united herself to John de Plessets, a noble in great favour with the king, in token of which he had presented him with a horse, worth thirty marks. Sutton and other manors were settled on him for life, and eventually he was styled earl of Warwick. In 38 Henry III he was entrapped and imprisoned at Pontes, in France, and there suffered much in health and purse. On this the king issued letters patent requiring the earl's tenants to make good his deficiencies, if they wished for the royal favour. Afterwards, he again attended the king in wars in Wales, and in the destructive civil strife in England. He died in February, 1263, 47 Henry III. The countess Margerie was living in 34 Henry III; the time of her death is uncertain.

On the death of John Plessets, William Manduit succeeded to the earldom. He was son and heir of Alice, daughter of earl Waleran. He attended king Henry III, but while the barons in rebellion drew the king's army towards Northampton, a force from Kenilworth surprised Warwick castle, and carried the earl and countess prisoners to Kenilworth; then beat down all of the castle but the towers; and compelled the earl to pay 1,900 marks for a ransom. He died without issue, January 8, 1267.

William de Beauchamp, son of Isabel, sister of the last earl, succeeded—[1267]—as next heir. He was descended from Walter de Bellocampo, time of Henry I. He bore the title of Warwick in his mother's life time. With Henry III he had been in great favour for his services; and he was sent by Edward I to Wales, as commissioner, to adjust differences with Llewelyn, the reigning prince. He afterwards attended Edward in his victorious expedition into Wales: and in 4 Edward I was made captain general, in Cheshire and Lancashire, to secure those counties against the Welsh.

Whilst Edward was in France—[1286]—his lieutenant in

England directed his special precept to this Earl of Warwick, and other powerful subjects, requiring most urgently that they should not ride with armed force in any part of the kingdom, to the terror of the king's liege people, and disturbance of the peace; but that private wrongs should be referred to him for redress.

In 23 Edward I—[1295]—he attacked, at night, a body of Welsh, defended between two woods; and with his choice company of crossbowmen and cavalry, he made a great slaughter. The next year he was sent to Scotland; and afterwards, with lord Surrey, to recover the castle of Dunbar, where they were engaged with the whole Scotch army, and obtained a signal victory. The number of the enemy slain was computed to be 10,600. He was made one of the governors of Prince Edward, and afterwards—[1298]—was with that prince when the English army was almost destroyed, in attempting to cross the bridge at Stirling.

In 13 Edward I, William de Beauchamp claimed by prescription a court leet at Sutton, with assize of bread and beer; free chase, infang thef, tumbrell, thewe, weyf, and gallows; and it being found that he and his ancestors had exercised all these liberties and privileges time out of mind, they were allowed. In 16 Edward I he restrained Thomas de Arden from exercising liberty in the Arden manors of Peddimore and Curdworth without his permission.

It was this earl who, in 17 Edward I, granted to Ralph de Limesi to make a park at Weford of his wood called Ash Hay; and to Ralph, lord Basset, in 18 Edward I, to hunt in his woods at Draiton; in 21 Edward I, to William de Odingells, to hunt in the woods and felde of Weford, Thickbrome, and Hynts; and to William Meignill and Robert de la Ward, in their lands and woods at Hynts, &c. And it is evident this chase was in high esteem with these great earls, who had here a very goodly manor house, with fair pools near it. In 17 Edward I the earl obtained a special patent from the king, that during his life, he might have free liberty to follow and pursue such of his deer as, being hunted within this chase, fled into the forest of Kank, and there to kill and bring them away, without any disturbance from the said king's verderers, or other officers of the forest. Nay, the earl was so tender in preserving his game, that, though he had given liberty to the lord Basset to hunt in his own woods at Drayton, yet, that it might not appear that he excluded himself, he questioned lord Basset for his keeper's undue boldness in those

woods; so that, Basset coming to an agreement with him, it was concluded that from henceforth his forester for Drayton woods, for the time being, should make oath to the earl and his heirs for the faithful custody of the venison, and that attachments and presentments touching the same should be made in the earl's court at Sutton; and that the ranger to the earl and his heirs should oversee the keepership of the deer in those woods at his own pleasure, and make attachments for the same; as also that the earl should have the one half of all amerciements, and recompence for trespasses done to the deer in those woods, to be received by his bailiff of Sutton. Which accord was made at Sutton on the 13th of September, in the presence of sir John Clinton the younger, knight, Thomas Prior, of Canwell, Anketel de L'isle, Robert de Sheldon, Henry de Mably, William de Lee, John Russell, and others.

In 21 Edward I, there being a complaint made to the king by this Earl William that some misdemeanors had been committed by certain lewd persons, in killing deer within this chase, a special commission was directed to Roger, lord Strange, to find them out, and to punish them according to their demerits. We are curious to learn more particulars of these Robin Hoods.

In 25 Edward I—[1296-7]—John, lord of Little Barre, came to an accord with the earl for license to enclose his woods at Little Barre; as also to improve them by assarting; and for cutting of under-wood there; they being within the bounds of this chase. For which liberty he covenanted for himself and his heirs to pay yearly, to the earl and his heirs, six barbed arrows, on the feast of St. Michael, at his manor of Sutton. This earl died in 1298.

His son and heir, Guy, succeeded him, and was, like his ancestors, a martial man. He fought under Edward I in Scotland, when the English archers again distinguished themselves, and obtained a great victory at Falkirk; and he displayed so much gallantry that the king rewarded him with almost all the lands of Geoffry de Mowbray in that kingdom, and with grants elsewhere. The next year he was in the king's service beyond the sea, and was afterwards with the king at the siege of Caerlaverock. In 28 Edward I he obtained a charter for a weekly market at Sutton, upon the Tuesday, and a fair yearly, to begin on the eve of the Holy Trinity, and to continue for three days following.

## Fairs.

The word "fair" is ancient British, signifying a market; in early times frequently kept on Sundays, until, in 27 Henry VI, a statute prohibited fairs and markets on that day.

In Edward the First's time prices were usually as follow :

Best Fat Ox (grass fed) alive	£0 16 0
Best grain fed ditto, ditto	1 4 0
Best Cow (fed) alive	0 12 0
Best Hog, two years old	0 8 4
Best Shorn Mutton	0 1 2
Best Goose	0 0 3
Best Hens, each	0 0 1½
Wheat	7 Qr. 0 6 0
Rye	0 5 0
Barley	0 3 0
Beans and Peas	0 2 8
Oats	0 2 0
Eggs (20)	0 0 1

Frank de Lucy, a special lover of good horses, gave forty marks for a black horse.

Twelve ounces of silver made one pound sterling.

As the church at Sutton was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the fair, or wake, was held in honour of that day. An old MS. says of this kind of festival :

"The pepul came to the chirche with candelys brenning, and wold wake; and come with light toward night, to the chirche, in their devotions. . . . And after they fell to songs, daunses, harping, piping, and also to glotony and sinne, and so turned the holinesse into cursydes."

In 35 Edward I—[1307]—the king having received information that the free chase here had been anciently a forest, in the time of the king's ancestors, before it was given to the earls of Warwick, made Henry de Spigurnell and William de Mortimer, commissioners, to inquire whether it were so or not; and in case it should be found accordingly, then to certify when it was so disforested, by whom, and for what reason; as also how it passed from the crown. And the sheriff of this county and Staffordshire had thereupon command to summon so many honest and lawful men to try the same, as in their discretion they should think fit; but their return has not been found. Shortly after this, in 3 Edward II—[1309]—at a court leet and court baron held for this manor, the ancient customs were certified by the jury upon their oaths. The document is of interest, and has been used as authority for ancient customs and terms :

"The inquisition of twelve jurymen taken at this view, before Galfrid de Okenham, seneschal, by oath of Anselm de Clifton and others, jurymen, charged (to enquire) concerning the ancient customs of that lordship, as well with regard to freemen as bond-servants, what sort of customs they used to make and to have before the coronation of our lord king Henry (III), grandfather of the present

king, from the days of Athelstan, some time king of England, by whom aforesaid the ancient usages and customs of the lordship were made and settled.

"Who say upon their oath, that every freeman of Sutton was accustomed to hold his lands and tenements by virtue and effect of his original charter; and if there should be any plea about land between any freeman of that lordship, they used to be pleaded and concluded by writ of our lord the king, according to the law of England, before the justiciaries. And those men of bondage-tenure who held a whole yardland or more used to be officers of the king, or lord, during the lord's pleasure, whoever might have been elected to that office.

"Also, those who held half a yardland, or a nook of land, or a cottage of bondage tenure, used to be bedell of the manor and decenary. And also all those who held in bondage tenure, used to be called customary tenants. And whenever the lord came to hunt, those customary tenants used to drive the wanlass to a stand in driving the wild beasts, according to the quantity of their tenure; as those who held a whole yardland, for two days, and so of others. And they used to have among them half of the fee of a woodward of the venison taken.

"Also they used to be keepers of the Coldfield heath, whenever they were chosen by their neighbours at the court; and they used to buy and sell freely, both in and out of the lordship of Sutton, without challenge. And also they used to do suit at the court of Sutton from three weeks to three weeks, and to pay the rent of assize, with tallage, according to the quantity of customary tenants of this sort, at the four usual terms of the year, &c. And they used to have house-bote and hay-bote, by view of the foresters and woodwards, in the time of Lent, enough to repair their hedges and houses in bondage tenure.

"And at the death of customary tenants of this kind, the lord used to have, in the name of the heriot, the best animal, and no more; neither goods nor chattels, neither in the life nor after the death of a customary tenant of this kind, unless for this reason, that the lord's eldest son or daughter were going to be married. And the lord used to have, at his pleasure, of those who were dead, before the administration of the executors, the third part of all the goods of a customary tenant of this kind who was dead. And of customary tenants of this kind while living, the lord used to have in like manner the half of all his goods, saving oxen enough for ploughing, and heifers for milking, when his (the lord's) eldest son or daughter was going to be married. And if any of these customary tenants alienated his bondage tenure to any one, they used to give up that tenure in court before the seneschal (i.e., the steward), and raise and pay a fine at the lord's pleasure.

"And also, if any of these customary tenants went out of the lordship, and would not abide there any longer, they used to come into court, and give up into the hands of the lord their tenure of bondage, with all their horses and colts, and cart bound with iron, with their hogs, their whole pieces of cloth, their wool not spun, and their best brass pot: and go out and abide wherever he would, without challenge of the lord, and himself, with all his posterity, to be free for ever. And also all tenants, as well free as customary, used to have common pasture with all their cattle, within the lordship of Sutton, in all the out-woods and other common places, at all times of the year; and also in all separate places from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel to the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, excepting the lord's land and the lord's park, and excepting also the gardens of the neighbours.

"And none of these customary tenants used to grind his corn but at the lord's water-mill, so long as the mill was in repair for grinding, unless they first paid (for) the whole of the corn to the lord's miller, upon pain of forfeiture of the whole of the corn; excepting the tenants of Maney, Windley, and Wigula (?), who ground at the lord's windmill at Maney.

"And they also say, that they have heard their ancestors say, that at the time the manor of Sutton aforesaid was in the hands of the king of England all the chase was afforested, and that all the dogs within the forest used to be ringed and maimed on the left paw; and that, after they came into the hands of the earl of Warwick, they had leave to have and to hold dogs of all kind whole and not ringed.

"And also all tenants, as well customary as free, used to have the dead wood in all the woods, wherever it might be found, for firing. And also all freeholders used to be summoned to appear for three days before the court, and the customary tenants likewise. And if there was a plea of debt or offence, or any plea between

neighbours, and the defendants denied it, and waged law against the plaintiff, they used to make law with the third hand, and they used to esoin themselves of the common suit of court twice, and the third time appear and warrant the esoin; and likewise of the plea, as well of the plaintiff as the defendant, to be essoined twice of the plea, and twice of the law, and the third time to come, or have the judgment of the court. And the customary tenants used to be twice fined in court for houses found on bondage tenure; and the third time, if it was not repaired, they used to incur a punishment at the lord's pleasure.

"And the aforesaid customary tenants used to repair the bank round the mill-pool of the lord of Sutton with earth-work as often as was necessary, being warned with reasonable warning, and if they did not come they used to be fined at the court next ensuing; and they used to be fined in like manner if they did not come to the wanlass, whenever the lord came to hunt.

"And all customary tenants, who held a whole yardland in bondage, used to work for the lord for two days in autumn; and in like manner all other customary tenants according to the quantity of their tenure, at reasonable warning given by the overseer; for which they used to have one fat sheep and four pennyworth of white bread, and twelve casks of beer; and if they did not come then they used to be fined at the court next ensuing.

"And they say that all the aforesaid customs used to be kept, both from the time of king Athelstan and the time of king John, and before the coronation of king Henry III; and the predecessors of the aforesaid jurymen. And they say that Waleran, formerly earl of Warwick, for himself and his heirs, granted that all the customs aforesaid, and all other ancient customs, should last for ever."

In the 5th Edward II—[1311]—Guy took part with the earl of Lancaster in the discontent occasioned by Piers Gaveston, and having taken him prisoner and fearing his escape, he surprised the guard to whom the barons had entrusted the captive at Doddington, carried him to Blacklow Hill, near Warwick, and there decapitated him. Gaveston had particularly offended the earl, and called him the Black Dog of Arderne, in allusion to his dark complexion. This act of summary justice produced an ill feeling between himself and the earl of Lancaster. He married the heiress of Toney, and died 9 Edward II—[1315]—in the forty-fourth year of his age. After his death the manor of Sutton was valued at £24.0s.3d. per annum, and as his eldest son and heir, Thomas, was a minor, it was placed under the care of John de Someri.

In 17 Edward II—[1323-4]—a notable robbery was committed on a certain road thwarting that part of the chase called "Colfeild," then and afterwards known by the name of "Rugeway." The party robbed being one Elias le Collier, and the sum of money taken from him £300, about nine o'clock in the morning; whereupon he commenced his suit against the inhabitants of this hundred of Hemlingford, and those of the hundred of Offlow, in Staffordshire, according to the statute of Winchester, for not prosecuting the felons; in regard that the same way, as the record saith, divideth the counties of Warwick and Stafford, viz., leaving Sutton and Aston-juxta-Birmingham on the one side of it, of this county

and Barre, Alrewich, with part of Shenstone, in the county of Stafford, on the other side, and had judgment to recover the money accordingly: whereupon, writs being directed to the sheriffs of both shires to levy the same sum, return was made that the people were so much indebted to the king, and impoverished by murrain of their cattle, dearth of corn, and other accidents, that they were not able to pay it. Nevertheless, it seems that the sheriff, pressing hard upon them by virtue of several writs to him directed, at the procurement of the party robbed, levied forty marks of it. Much ado there was about this money, the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield pleading, for himself and his tenants, immunity from such charges; and the county still shifting the payment; so that at length they procured a *supersedeas* from the king to stop any further proceedings therein.

The name of Ridgeway is now unknown in the line given in this record, Dugdale's Map of the Hemlingford Hundred marks it as the road from Jordan's grave, along the boundary of the county, until it crosses the Ickneild Street, after which it skirts the western palings of the park. A rough sketch, among the Corporation papers, made about 1801, by Mr. Biland, marks it from Jordan's grave, southwards, towards Witton, through which it probably ran.

Dugdale's description of the Ickneild Street follows:

"Over part of this chase is another ancient way, called Ykenild Street (though not now much noted), being one of those four eminent ones made by the Romans, the tract whereof is yet to be seen in divers places within this county, especially here, and over a corner of Sutton Park: where, going over low grounds, it appeareth to be firm and high, ridged up with gravel. This way coming from Tinemouth in Northumberland, through Yorkshire to Bolesover, and thence to Chesterfield through Scarsdale, comes over Morley Moor to Little Chester, near Derby, and so over Egginton Heath, crosseth the river Dove at Monk's Bridge, then over Burton Moor: and passing Trent at Wichnor Bridge, stretcheth through Alderwas Hays; thence to Street Hay, and so to Wall (anciently Etocetum) where it thwarts Watling Street: thence over Radley Moor, leaving Little Aston on the right hand, entereth this Lordship of Sutton, and so extendeth itself to Alcester in this county. Thence over Bitford Bridge (leaving Cambden in Gloucestershire a little on the left hand) to Stow in the Wolds (where it crosseth the Ford), and from Stow to Burford, and over Isis at Newbridge, directly to Wallingford; and so through Winchester to Southampton."

As a special favour king Edward III allowed the young earl to perform his homage, and have livery of his lands, before he was of age. [1329.] His virtues were eminent, and he was scarcely ever free from some noble and high employment. He had the government of the Channel Isles; he attended the king into Scotland—[1333]—when king Edward Baliol did homage to Edward III, for the realm of Scotland and the adjacent isles; he had the custody of the Marches of Scotland given to him, and in 17 Edward III—[1343]—marched thither, with a numerous force, under the earl of Lancaster; he was made marshal of England; and in 20



Edward III—[1346]—attended the king in his French expedition. When they arrived at La Hague he landed at once, with only one esquire and six archers, to attack an opposing body of one hundred Normans, of which he slew sixty, and so enabled the English army to disembark unmolested. He was one of the principal commanders who, with the Black Prince, led the van in the memorable Battle of Cressy. Many strong arms from Sutton drew the bow that day, and helped to win for England lasting honour. In 21 Edward III he was at the Siege of Calais, with 3 bannerets, 61 knights, 106 esquires, and 154 archers on horseback. In consideration of these noble services the king gave him the sum of £1,366. 11s. 8d., and the next year assigned him 1,000 marks per annum during life, with the further agreement that he should attend on him with 100 men-at-arms.

In 26 Edward III he recovered the dominion of Gower, in Wales, from lord John Mowbray, to whose ancestor king John had wrongfully given it, during the minority of Henry earl of Warwick. In 27 Edward III—[1353]—lest there should be an insurrection, he was sent to protect Sir Richard de Willoughby and Sir W. Sharesull, justices itinerant, while they sat at Chester; and in the same year he obtained another charter for a market at Sutton, on the Tuesday—the market on that day formerly granted having, perhaps, fallen into disuse. By the renewed charter he also obtained that two fairs yearly might be held here, one on the eve of the Holy Trinity and two days after, the other on the eve and day of St. Martin.

In 29 Edward III he attended the Black Prince into France, and gained high renown for his valour at the Battle of Poitiers, when the king of France was taken prisoner. In the fight he took, with his own arm, the archbishop of Sens, for whose ransom he received £8,000.

About 37 Edward III he travelled in foreign parts, and having spent three years in war against the Pagans of the north of Europe, he returned, bringing with him the son of the king of Lithuania, whom he christened in London, and was his sponsor. He was nominated one of the original Knights of the Order of the Garter, instituted by Edward the Third.

In the forty-third year of his reign Edward sent an army to France—[1369]—which encamped near Calais; but although the French advanced, being seven times more in number than

the English army, the English commanders delayed giving battle so long that the troops began to suffer severely, from want of provisions and from the plague. On learning this unhappy news, the earl of Warwick hastened with some picked men to Calais. The French no sooner heard of his arrival than they deemed it prudent to secure a rapid retreat, at midnight, on the 12th of September, unencumbered by their tents and provisions, which they abandoned to the English. This retrograde movement was attributed to the fears of the French king. When the earl landed he highly blamed the English commanders, saying, "I shall follow and fight before we have digested the bread we eat in England." And so he entered and wasted the Isle of Caens: but on his return towards Calais, he was seized with the prevailing pestilence and died. It is said that he had seven sons and nine daughters. He left to his son Thomas the sword and coat of mail that had belonged to the renowned Guy earl of Warwick; and to Sutton church, as to all other churches on his lordships, the best beast that could be found on the manor, in lieu of tithes forgotten.

Thomas, his second son, succeeded him, at the age of twenty-four. He engaged in the king's wars in France, with 200 men at arms, 200 archers, a banneret, 4 knights, and 144 esquires, well equipped and well mounted. The chase here was a suitable wold for the rearing of horses, and many, from its noiseless fields, would march to the din of war, strong, hardy animals, that could stand the shock of spears, and plunge amongst the enemy, under horse armour and the ponderous weight of an iron-clad rider.

At length the pride of England was bowed; the great king Edward, and his chivalrous son, the Black Prince, the beloved of history, were in their graves. Warwick was appointed governor to the young king, Richard II.—[1379]—and two years afterwards he had the commission to suppress the insurrection under Jack Straw, especially in Warwickshire. Afterwards, the mal-administration of the king and his favourites stirred up the haughty spirits of this earl and other nobles, who took up arms and compelled the king to summon a parliament. The next year the earl was dismissed from the king's service, and, retiring to Warwick, built the strong tower on the north-east of the castle, at a cost of £395. 5s. 2d.: and also the body of St. Mary's church, at Warwick: but he lost, through the king's displeasure, the territory of Gower, in Wales, which

was restored to Mowbray. The king and his enemies determined on his ruin. They invited him to a feast, whence he was treacherously carried away prisoner, to undergo sentence of death; this, however, the king commuted to perpetual durance in the Isle of Man. His castle of Warwick, and many of his manors, were given to Thomas Holland, duke of Surrey; and his son and heir, Richard, and the wife of his son, were imprisoned under the custody of Surrey. He was afterwards removed to the Tower of London, where he remained during Richard's reign. But the king was the chief sufferer for his perverse treatment of true friends, and advancing unworthy favourites: his deposition and murder followed, and Henry of Lancaster occupied his throne. [1399.]

The earl of Warwick was now restored to his full liberty and possessions: but the sorrow of the world does not conduce to longevity, and he died in his fifty-seventh year. [1401.]

Richard, his son, succeeded him at the age of nineteen, and had the advantage of a biographer, in his contemporary, John Rous, whose family was Warwickshire, and probably the same as that which descended from John Rufus, time Henry III. This industrious antiquarian studied at Baliol College, Oxford, and was canon of Osney. He travelled throughout the kingdom to collect materials for history. But the later historian of Warwickshire, Dugdale, supposed that most of the labours of his diligent pen were lost, as he could only discover the rolls of the earls of Warwick, illustrated with curious drawings by the writer, and a chronicle of the kings of England. Rous carried on his literary work at Guy's Cliff, and died there in 1491.

Shakspeare has given Sutton the honour of a notice, making *Sir John Falstaff* exclaim to *Bardolph*, before the terrible Battle of Shrewsbury, 1403—

“Get thee before to Coventry; fill me a bottle of sack; our soldiers shall march through; we 'll to Sutton Coldfield to-night.”

As nothing more stirring is recorded of Sutton at this time, some account may be acceptable of the activity of her liege lord, and of his mode of expending the revenues of his manors, during a period of thirty-eight years.

At the coronation of queen Jane—[1404]—second wife of Henry IV, the earl kept *just*, on the queen's part, against all comers; in which deed of ancient fashion and chivalry he acquitted himself most nobly. He afterwards signalized himself in the capture of the banner of Owen Glendower, then in rebellion, and also in the Battle of Shrewsbury, with the Percies, who had espoused the cause of the House of York.

He was made Knight of the Garter—[1407]—and in 9 Henry IV obtained the king's leave to absent himself on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, probably wishing to withdraw from the contention of the two royal houses, so destructive to the great families of England, as well as to their retainers. He was received with distinction by the king of France, and conducted with ceremony into Lombardy: there he was challenged by sir Pandolf Malacet to a feat of arms, at Verona, in the presence of sir Galeot of Mantua. They were first to *just*, then to fight with axes, and lastly with sharp daggers. On the day appointed a vast concourse of people was assembled, and sir Pandolf entered the lists with nine spears borne before him; the act of spears being ended, they fell to with axes, when sir Pandolf received a severe wound on his shoulder, and would have been slain but that sir Galeot cried, "Peace."

Travelling forward, the earl received honours at Venice, and again at Jerusalem, where he performed his vows. There the sultan's lieutenant, sir Baltredam, entertained him nobly, as the descendant of the renowned Guy, whose story had been related in foreign tongues. We do not hear whether the pilgrim disclaimed any other title to Guy's credit than that of the Norman seizure of his earldom and possessions. But the supposed inheritance produced, from the admirer of heroes, presents of jewels and rich garments for the earl's attendants, with the avowal that, though servant to a Moslem, he was himself a Christian, without daring to acknowledge it in that land. On the next day the earl feasted the retainers of sir Baltredam, and gave them scarlet and other English cloth, which, being shewed to their master, he again went to the earl and declared he would wear his livery, and be marshal of his hall. This was acknowledged by the earl in an additional gift to sir Baltredam of a gown of black puke, furred: and Warwick, being skilled in foreign languages, had much conversation with him. From Jerusalem he travelled by Venice into Russia, and parts of Germany, shewing great valour in many tournaments.

When he returned to England—[1410]—he was retained to serve the prince of Wales for 250 marks per annum, with four esquires and six yeomen, to live at the prince's expense; and when at Calais—[1415]—as captain, in 3 Henry V., his own retinue, during peace, was to consist of 30 men-at-arms, *i.e.*, horsemen, including himself and 3 knights, 200 foot soldiers, and 200 archers; for which he was to receive—for himself, 6s. 8d. per day; for his knights, 2s. each; for

the rest of his horse, 1s. ; for every archer on horseback, and foot soldier, 8d. ; and for every archer on foot, 6d. per day, as their wages. This city guard was to be much increased in case of war.

At Calais, finding nothing to do, he caused three shields to be painted with devices of ladies and knights, and sent them as challenges to the court of the French king, where three French knights accepted them. The first was sir Gerard Herbaumes, who called himself le chevalier Rouge ; the second, a famous sir Hugh Launey, calling himself le chevalier Blanc ; and the third was sir Collard Fines. They met at the park hedge of Guines.

On the first day Warwick came into the field with his visor down, a plume on his helm, and his horse trapped with the arms of his ancestor, lord Toney ; a noble presence his ! When encountering le chevalier Rouge, he, at the third course, unhorsed the French knight, and then returned, with visor closed, unknown, to his pavilion, from whence he sent to the fallen chevalier the gallant compliment of a fine courser.

The next day he again entered the field with his visor close, but he had added a chaplet of pearls and precious stones to his plumed helmet, and his horse was trapped with the ancestral arms of Hanslap (*i.e.*, Manduit). He then met the chevalier Blanc, smote off his visor thrice, broke his besagurs and other harness, and, with his own armour all safe, rode back victorious to his tent, as yet not known ; and the princely knight again displayed his magnificence, by sending the worsted cavalier a handsome courser.

But on the morrow, the last day of the justs, he advanced with his visor up, his chaplet rich with pearls and precious stones, his coat bearing the arms of Guy and Beauchamp, his trappers those of Hanslap and Toney—Warwick confessed ! Then, poising his spear, he charged his opponent, and at every encounter threw sir Collard Fines back on the crupper. The French spectators cried that the earl was tied to his saddle—a strange reproach to an Englishman !—to disprove it he sprang from his horse and up again quickly. Thus the justs being terminated, he sent to sir Collard Fines a good horse, feasted all the people, gave large presents to the three knights, and, highly applauded, rode back to Calais.

When the Council of Constance began—[1414]—six bishops from England, with other learned men, were sent to assist ; and to confer additional honour on the party, the earl

accompanied them, forming, with retainers, a body of 800 horsemen. This council judged that promises and oaths were not to be kept with heretics; and they burned at the stake the two reformers, John Huss and Jerome of Prague, who had profited by the writings of our enlightened Wickliff. Scriptural knowledge was beginning to operate in England and Europe; the pious lord Cobham and others had suffered in the cause; but though the earl of Warwick is said to have aided in suppressing a popular tumult, he is not charged with persecuting the professors of reformed opinions.

Whilst he was in Constance, amidst the distinguished men of Europe, and the rulers of the Church, he received a challenge from a noble duke to a just, in which display of skill in arms the earl slew the duke. This passage of chivalry was so generally approved that the empress took his livery, *i.e.*, the bear, from the shoulder of one of his knights, and transferred it to her own person. When this act of royal favour was reported to Warwick, he presented the empress with his badge, set with pearls and precious stones, which she received with much graciousness. Afterwards the emperor Sigismund, in going to England on a visit, and returning, was royally entertained by the earl at Calais, and was induced to observe to Henry V, "that no other sovereign had such a knight for wisdom, nurture, and manhood; and that if courtesy were lost, it might be found again in him." So that ever after, by the emperor's authority, he was called the father of courtesy.

When Henry V was again carrying war into France—[1417]—this earl was in active service. He first entered Caen, besieged Candebeac, blocked up Rouen by land and river, won Mount St. Michel, and other strong towns, and was created earl of Albemarle.

In the following year Henry despatched him, with 1,000 men-at-arms, to negotiate a marriage with a daughter of the king of France; but the dauphin sent two earls, with 5,000 men, to intercept him. He gave them battle, and both the French leaders fell—one of them slain in the fight by the earl himself, who, with an English host, had felt no hesitation in encountering five to one; 2,000 of the enemy were left on the field, or made prisoners. The treaty of marriage was soon concluded, by which, after the death of the reigning king of France, Henry of England was to ascend the throne of France.

About this time—[1419]—he leased his manor house at Sutton, with the park and pools, to sir Ralph Bracebridge, of

Kingsbury, for life, whom he retained to serve him, with 9 lances and 17 archers, for the strengthening of Calais. He was himself again engaged in war in France, and was continued in the command of Calais after the death Henry V, who, by will, made him a guardian of his infant son, Henry.

On the death of the duke of Bedford—[1422]—he was constituted, by the English government, lieutenant-general of the whole realm of France, and duchy of Normandy; upon which he crossed to Calais, but met with a storm which caused so much apprehension of loss, that he had himself, his countess, and their son, lashed together to the mainmast, that if they perished they might, by his coat of arms, be recognized and buried together. The state with which he made that voyage may be learned from the painter's bill, for,

"One cote for my lord's body, bete with fine gold, pris . . . 01 10 00  
 "For a grete stremour for the ship, of 40 yerdys length, and 8 yerdys in brede, with a grete Bere and Gryfon holding a Ragged Staff, poudrid full of ragged staves; and for a grete crosse of St. George, for the lymmyng and portrayng . . . 01 06 08"

With a great number of other coats, pennons, etc. There was also with the earl a peculiar officer-at-arms, called Warwick herald, who had a grant from him of an annuity of 10 marks per annum.

He reached Calais in safety, and continued in his high office four years; but the fashion of the world passes away, and the mighty earl of Warwick must descend to the grave. His career terminated April 30, 17 Henry VI—[1439]—after a long illness at the castle of Rouen, in his 59th year; and the time and the talents spent in acquiring the admiration of the world, will appear on his roll at the great day of account.

"His body, with grete deliberacōn and ful worshipful conduit bi see and by lond, was broght to Warrewik."

The vast lands he possessed produced a revenue of 8,306 marks. Barley was then 4s. 2d. per quarter; oats 2s. 1d.; hens, 1d. each. The denomination of money had been raised by Henry V, who coined 30s. from a pound troy.

The executors of the earl completed the building of the lady chapel in Warwick church, in 21 years, at a cost of £2,481; the agreement with the workmen is extant:

"With Thomas Stevynes, coppersmith, to make forge-work in the most finest wise, and of the finest latten, etc., to be gilded, etc.; and 14 images, embossed, of lords and ladyes in divers vestures; also he shall make 18 less images of angells, to stand in other housings. Also, by William Austen, the image of a man armed, of fine latten, garnished with sword, dagger, and garter, with a helm and crest under his head, and at his feet a bear muzzled, and a griffin, to be laid on the tomb at

the peril of the said Austen. Bartlemy Lambespring, Dutchman, and goldsmith of London, doth covenant to gild and pullish 32 images, mourners and angells, and to make the visages and hands, and all other bares of the said images, in most quick and fair wise, etc. John Prudde, of Westminster, glazier, to glaze all the windows with glasse beyond the seas, and with no glasse of England, etc., of the finest colours of blew, yellow, red, purple, sanguine, and violet, etc."

The earl's youngest brother, William, was scarcely less distinguished. He carried 500 men to Spain, and afterwards accompanied the warlike and victorious bishop of Norwich in the Netherlands, and had many important offices and charges. In his will he directs that 10,000 masses should be sung for his soul in all the haste that might be after his death, by the most honest priests that could be got; and also that four good priests be found for the space of ten years singing for his soul.

Henry succeeded the earl, his father, at the age of fourteen; and before he was nineteen offered the king his services to defend Aquitaine. His father had seen almost all the English acquisitions in France won by the conquering Henry V, and lost by the government of the younger Henry. The Maid of Orleans having been the restorer of French honour. This only heir, male, of the great earls of Warwick, was created premier earl of England, and duke of Warwick; but he died at the age of twenty-two—[1445]—and after the death of his infant daughter, which followed in the year 1449, his sister Anne became heir to the earldom: she was then wife of Richard Neville, son and heir of the earl of Salisbury, to him, therefore, the dignity and title of the earl of Warwick was confirmed, and to her heirs. This noble has been known as the Stout Earl, or the King-maker, as he was so prominent an actor in the sanguinary Civil Wars which followed between the Houses of York and Lancaster. About the 30th Henry VI he took part with the duke of York, and, though quieted for a short time, he again encouraged the duke, and was the first to make the onset at the Battle of St. Alban's. [1454-5.] There, after much slaughter, king Henry VI was made prisoner. After some reverses, Warwick was induced to come to a conference with the king and duke in London, when he was escorted from Calais by 600 men in red coats, embroidered before and behind with the ragged staff. An amicable adjustment appeared to be effected: but the following year some new offence caused Warwick to hasten to Calais, and there maintain his command against the new officer despatched by the king. The means for this defence had been obtained by the capture at sea of some rich merchant vessels, after two days' fighting, with the loss of about 100 men on his part, and 1,000 of the Genoese traders.



In the 38th Henry VI he conducted a trusty band from Calais to a Yorkist Meeting in Herefordshire, where, to encourage the country to join his standard, he proclaimed the death of Henry, and ordered mass for his soul; but the gallant captain of his force, discovering the disloyal purpose, succeeded in drawing off some of his men and making his way to the king, which so much disconcerted the rebels, that Warwick and his father hastened to Calais.

Then it was that the king and parliament attainted him of high treason. Yet, soon after, he contrived to satisfy the government of his dutiful intentions, and was allowed to land in Kent. He and his party went forward to meet the king, who lay with his army at Northampton; they there put themselves in array against the royal standard—[1460]—and Warwick led the van: a bloody battle ensued, and the king was again in the hands of his enemies. The queen hastened to redeem his cause, and raised troops in Yorkshire. The duke of York met them at Wakefield Green, and there fell by the sword which he had called from the scabbard. The queen marched towards London, where Warwick was supporting the claim of young Edward, son of the late Duke of York. The two armies had another battle at St. Alban's, when the Yorkists were routed, and the king was recovered: but Warwick was soon in the field again with a more powerful array, which alarmed the king and queen into a hasty retreat to the north. London opened its gates to the Yorkists, and their young chief was proclaimed king Edward IV [1461]. He immediately pursued the royal fugitives into Yorkshire. At Ferrybridge he met with some reverses, when Warwick, to rally the spirit of his men, stabbed his own horse in the presence of Edward, crying, "Let him fly that will; I will tarry with him that will tarry with me!" The next day they gained the decisive victory of Towton, which cost the country upwards of 36,000 of her bravest men, and many gallant nobles. The execution of captive chiefs was the usual afterpiece of these tragic encounters, and, as it were in mockery of the cruelties, treacheries, and desolations, perpetrated by both parties, history has denominated them—from the chosen emblems of the two Houses—the "Wars of the Roses."

Henry, thus deprived of the crown (unjustly acquired by his ancestor), fled with queen Margaret into Scotland.

The new king rewarded the powerful earl with honours, and sent him to the French court—[1463]—to treat of a marriage with a foreign princess, in which he was successful: but in the

meanwhile the impetuous Edward had become resolved on making the widow of sir John Grey his queen. This slight to himself and his commission so incensed Warwick, that he resolved to overturn the throne which he had raised. He secured the interest of the king's brother, the duke of Clarence, by giving him his daughter Isabel in marriage—[1468]—and then took up arms. Edward listened to terms of peace, but rested negligently in his camp at Wolvey, in this county. There the earl surprised him in bed, and carried him off prisoner to Warwick Castle. From thence he transferred him to his manor of Middleham, in Yorkshire. Edward soon effected his escape, and made such active use of his liberty against the Lancastrian troops in Lincolnshire, that Warwick, with Clarence, hastily retreated to France—[1470]—and entered into negotiations with the deposed queen, Margaret—Warwick giving his other daughter, Ann, in marriage to her son, the prince of Wales. With assistance from her, Warwick landed in the west of England, proclaimed king Henry, and, marching to London, released that unfortunate prince from his nine years' captivity. Edward had fled the kingdom; but in less than a year he returned, and his strength soon increasing, the duke of Clarence made terms for himself, but the earl would not listen to an accommodation. His treasons, his treacheries, his dignity, his courage forbade it: he cast his fate on a battle—[1471]—that battle he hazarded at Barnet, and lost; there, on foot, in the hottest fray, Warwick fell fighting! And there fell the noble house whose titles and honours of four centuries' growth he had unworthily borne in a political career purely selfish. His high talents had been lost to his country. His inordinate pride had in it nothing of patriotism, but was rather the spring of contentions which saturated the land with the best blood of England. His power had gained for him popularity, and at Calais every one wore his badge, no one esteeming himself gallant whose cap was not adorned with his ragged staff; and no door was frequented that was not distinguished by his white cross. His hospitality was so profuse that, at his house on Bankside, in London, six oxen were usually eaten at breakfast; and every tavern was full of his meat: any man that had an acquaintance in his household might have as much sodden and roast as he could carry away on a long dagger. For this expeditious course the country manors were sufficiently mulcted. He maintained an officer termed the "Warwick Herald," as granted to his predecessor.

After his fall, the countess sank under overwhelming

troubles and poverty. She, the representative of a line of earls, and allied to both royal houses by the marriages of her ill-fated daughters—she, countess, destitute and neglected, hid herself from the conflicts of parties, and the observation of enemies, in Beaulieu Abbey, Hants, and afterwards in the north of England. By act of parliament she was deprived of her vast inheritance, and it was divided, and settled on her two daughters, who were sacrificed at an early age to the ambition of the duke of Gloucester, and, it is believed, died by poison, whilst he possessed himself of the Warwick estates, and kept their mother under restraint.

Isabel, at the age of eighteen, had married George, duke of Clarence, and, after the death of her father, Clarence, in right of his wife, was created earl Warwick—[1472]—but she was poisoned in the year 1476, and the year following Clarence was murdered in the tower. [1477.] The earldom then belonged to their only son, Edward Plantagenet, just three years of age; but at the age of eight he was shut up for life in prison; first, by the cruelty of his uncle Gloucester (Richard III), and afterwards by the inhuman policy of Henry VII, who brought him out to the scaffold in 1499, in order to rid himself of the last male Plantagenet who had a claim to the throne. His only sister, married to sir Richard Pool, knight, was the mother of cardinal Pole, and, in her own right, countess of Salisbury. In her sixty-eighth year, 1541, she was dragged to the block by the hair of her head.

To return to the manor of Sutton. It had been seized by Henry VI on the defection of the earl of Warwick from his cause, and demised to sir E. Mountfort, knight, one of the royal carvers, for the term of ten years. This sir Edmond had a contest of a very iniquitous character with his elder half brother, sir Baldwin Mountfort, for his patrimony of Coleshill, &c., and to assist him in this wrong, he had obtained, by bribery, the influence of the puissant duke of Buckingham, after whose death a curious document was laid before the public by the disinherited knight, from which are the following extracts:

"To all true Cristen pepull—Baldewyn Mountfort, K' and Prest, sendeth greting, &c.—all such reles or other writings which y made to Humfrey, late Lord of Stafford, &c. . . . hit was done by compulsion of the said Duke, and for fere of my deth, and of my son Sir Simond's. For in trouth the said Duke kepeth me in Coventre 14 dayes, and after had me to the Castel of Maxtoke, and there kept me; and my son Sir Symond was put in the Castell of Gloucester, and we coude never be delivered out, till we agreed to certain Articles written in a bill annexid to this my writinge, &c."—49 Henry VI.

This was 10 Edward IV, or 1470.

At the time Henry gave away the manor to sir E. Mountfort, he conferred the rangership of the Chase on John Holt, esq., of Aston, one of his household, to hold for the term of life. Parliament was compelled by Edward IV to settle the manor on the two daughters of the countess of Warwick ; and, they being deceased, Henry VII, in the third year of his reign—[1474]—caused Parliament to annul the former act, and restore possession of all her inheritance to Ann, the widowed countess, but it appears not for her benefit, as he made her convey the whole to himself, and entail it on his issue male : and two years after the king assigned to her the manor of Sutton for her maintenance, out of the 118 lordships and other territories which should have been her dower.

## The Manor House.

The retainers of the great earls having ceased to occupy the manor house and the town, and the public troubles having suspended any interest in the Chase, and probably thinned the population, the place went to decay. The markets were forsaken ; and at length the manor house was totally pulled down, by one Wingston, an officer of the king in this lordship, who made a profit to himself by the sale of the timber. The entire fabric of the hall (by which we understand the wood work of a half-timbered building), he parted with to the marquess of Dorset, to be employed in building the mansion of Bradgate, in Leicestershire.

Dugdale truly says the manor house stood very delightfully. Fine pools spread below its steep promontory, and over them it looked on the little town which clung round the church hill. To the left hand and in front extended the most picturesque forest tracks as far as the wild heaths of Barr Beacon : and from its turrets the eye traced the rich-wooded distance,

“ Where nightingales in Arden sit and sing  
Amongst the daintie dew-impearled flowers.”

Within the walls was a chapel dedicated to St. Blaize, of which the earliest notice is that, in 2 Edward III, the king, on account of the minority of the earl of Warwick, conferred it upon Thomas de Hampton as a donative. In 24 Henry VI, the officiating priest had 33s. 4d. per annum stipend. As will be seen, it was given to bishop Vesey by Henry VII, and having become ruinous, it may have been pulled down by him, with the rest of the stone walls of the manor house.

The area of these buildings is still perfectly traceable. The summit of the hill has an escarpment, which has scarcely been disturbed since bishop Vesey removed its supporting stone wall.

This area is an oval of about one hundred yards in its longest diameter. Foundations, supposed to be those of the chapel, are on its east side, partly under the present house, and the site of a tower and its dungeon is observed on the north-west corner, where rubbish has been filled in, and from which have recently been dug up a few relics of antiquity—pieces of broken encaustic tiles, of different eras of workmanship, the earliest having in their patterns oak leaves and the trefoil; the one of later date, the fleur de lis, &c., probably remains of the tessellated pavement of the chapel; and from the same place, a globe of stone, with lead in its socket, shewing it to have been an ornament of some portion of the building. On the north end of the area part of the foundations of the exterior wall have been laid bare. A narrow gravel path has also been traced a little below the present surface, which may have led from a door in the tower to one near in a building on the west, where foundations have been met with. A wall has been traced dividing the area into two courts. From the flat of the hill, south, a road now runs on the west side of the hill to the causeway leading between the two ancient pools to the park. Since the drainage of the pools in the middle of the last century, this raised dam has divided the meadows.

The entrance of the manor house may have been on the east, where there are hollows, as if towers had been rooted up, and where there are traces of extended adjoining buildings. There is still a gateway, leading now to nothing, under a farm building of timber and brick, a few centuries old, but apparently raised upon more ancient foundations of stone, which may have supported the towers and portcullis protecting the steep eastern ascent, where is seen a rudely marked road to this gateway from the pools below. A well is in the rock half-way down this supposed road. A deep well is also within the area.

In 7 Henry V there were four pools, which Sir Ralph Bracebridge leased from the earl of Warwick for life, from that date. It is probable that he made the dam which forms Bracebridge pool, and gave it his name. Whether it had been previously granted away, or that the Corporation received it as part of the park estate, and afterwards alienated it, is not

now known. It is not known whether the Keeper's Pool or Lindrich formed the fourth: it is possible the former took its name when John Holt, esq., was ranger or keeper, time Henry VI. Sir Ralph Bracebridge agreed to pay the yearly rent of £10, or 120 bremes, the price of each breme reckoned at 20d.; but if they should happen to be at a greater rate, then to be allowed back in proportion. An account made by the earl of Warwick's bailiff shews their value in those days, compared with some other things:

"Item: John Burbage and Wm. Lempe for fyching on Wensday nexte befor the Exaltacion of the Cros, and dyde take 2 Bremes and were lade to my lord to Lyche-felde be Will. Alyn; and to the said Fychers hyre and for her costs, mans mete and horamete 3s. 10d.

"Item: The same Fychers ware send for again, on Thursday, Frydaie, and Satyrday, and took four Bremes, ther hyre and other costs 4s. 8d. Item: The costs of bakyng the seyde 4 Bremes in flowre 12d. Item: In Spys, Pypyr, Safurn, Clows and Synamon, 6d. Item: The costs of caryng the seyde 4 Bremes to Mydlam to my Lord to the North Contrey, by Thomas Harys of Suttun, 10s.

"Item: For the Swans, four quarter Otes, and a bushell two quarters of hem a strike 2d. ob. and two quarter and a bushel a strike 3d. (viis. xd.)"

On the flat of the hill a little to the south of the manor house is the driffold, or drift-fald; drift signifying the examination of such cattle as were in the forest, that it might be known whether the land were surcharged with cattle or not, and whose the beasts were, &c. These drifts were made at certain times in the year by the officers of the forest, when all the cattle in the forest were driven into a pound, or place inclosed. Here a rude stone water trough was found a few years since, several feet below the surface of the ground.

On the west of the hill are the hollows of old stone quarries, and the fields are called Rocksall; the little promontory to the east of the manor house has also been worked for stone.

Bishop Vesey is said to have pulled down the remaining walls of the manor house, when he was about to build the bridges at Curdworth and Water Orton with the stone; after which time the history of the property is unknown: it may lie buried in contracted black-letter title-deeds and corporation court-books, to be hereafter exhumed by some enterprising antiquary.

A small dwelling was built of stone on the ancient site, at one time tenanted by a Mr. Dawney, whose grave was, in 1671, at his own desire, made nine feet deep, that is, five feet in the solid rock of the church yard, where his singular tomb still exists. The freehold was possessed by sir Lister Holte. It appears to have consisted of the manor hill and pools below,

gradually being drained ; a new pool called Windley, on which a forge mill had been built ; and the house and land of the driffold. Notwithstanding that sir Lister Holte was on affectionate terms with his younger brother Charles, under the influence of his third wife he made such a disposition of this and other landed property at his death, in 1770, that his only brother Charles had but a life interest in the real estate ; for, in default of male issue to him, it was to revert to Heneage Legge, esq., and his heirs ; in default, to Lewis Bagot, bishop of St. Asaph ; in default, to Wriothesley Digby, esq. ; in default, to the heirs general. In consequence of heirs failing to all these families, Mrs. Bracebridge, the only daughter of sir Charles Holte, was heir at law ; and an arrangement having been made with Mr. Legge and Mr. Digby, the surviving legatees, both then in advanced age, an act of parliament was obtained, in 1817, to appropriate the benefit of the estates to Mr. Bracebridge. Mr. Digby accepted the manor house, mills, pools, and lands, in Sutton, with other lands, as an equivalent for his reversionary interest in the estate, and he bequeathed the Sutton property to lord Somerville, who now possesses it. After it became Lord Somerville's, the old tenement on the manor hill was pulled down, and a new house built, which has since been enlarged.

Of these families, so much connected with Sutton, that of Holte took its name from the Saxon word, signifying a grove. The first ancestor known is sir Henry Holte of the 18th century, whose son, Hugh del Holte, or atte Holte, married Maud, daughter of sir Henry de Erdington, and died 1322. Simon del Holte purchased the manor of Nechells for 40 lbs. of silver, in 1331. In 1365 John atte Holte purchased, for 40 marks, the manor of Duddeston, and, two years after, the manor of Aston was conveyed to him. John Holte was an esquire of the household, and in high esteem with Henry VI, who, on the rebellion of Richard Neville, earl of Warwick, made him ranger of Sutton Chase. Sir Thomas Holt was the first baronet in the family, created in 1612, the year after the institution of the order, which was given by James I, to gentlemen bearing arms and having £1,000 per annum income, who would maintain 30 foot soldiers in the king's army for three years, which would be at the cost of £1,095. In 1618, sir Thomas began to build the mansion of Aston Hall, in which he took up his abode in 1631, and, being very wealthy, lived there in affluent style. He also purchased the rectory tithes of Aston. In October, 1642,

king Charles I, paid a visit of two nights on the 16th and 17th of October, at Aston Hall, and, ere he proceeded on the 18th to Packington Hall, it is said he met the loyal gentlemen of Staffordshire, and reviewed their troops on Sutton Coldfield, where a small artificial mound bears the name of "King's Standing." Sir Thomas's son and heir, Edward, was groom of the bedchamber to the king, and was wounded in his army during the Civil Wars. In 1648, on December 26, 1,200 Parliament troops attacked Aston Hall, and cannonaded it. Sir Thomas held it until twelve of his people had been killed, and on the 28th surrendered. A few of the balls that penetrated the house have been preserved; the rebels destroyed all the family papers they could seize, and caused a damage of about £20,000. Sir Thomas had to compound for his estate at £4,401. 2s. 4d.; he also suffered imprisonment.

In 12th Charles II, the king licensed James, earl Northampton, master of his leash, to take for his majesty's use and in his majesty's name, within all places within his majesty's dominions, as well within franchises as without, just so many greyhounds, in whose custody soever they be, as the earl shall think fit for his majesty's disport and recreation, as my predecessors, masters of the leash in the time of king Henry, &c.; and I, the said Earl, license sir Robert Holt, of Aston, to be my deputy to take for his majesty's use, such greyhounds, &c.; and to seize and take away all such greyhounds, beagles, and whippetts, as may any way be offensive to his majesty's game, &c.

Dated 16 Oct., 15 C. II (1663).

The arms of Holt are: azure, two bars or; in chief a cross patence of the second.

The Bracebridge family took the name from a lordship in Lincolnshire. Peter de Bracebrigg was the first to settle in this county, about 1100, on his marriage with Amicia, daughter of Osbert de Arden, and grand-daughter of Terchil de Ardene, earl of Warwick previous to the Norman Conquest. See the family history under Pedimore. With Amicia the manor of Kingsbury came to the family. One of the descendants in the seventeenth century purchased Atherstone Hall, and into this branch of the family the only daughter and heir of sir Charles Holte married, in 1775.

The present owner of the manor house and estate, Mark Somerville, baron Somerville, 16th lord is descended from sir Gaultier de Somerville, lord of Wichnour, county Stafford, who came into England with William the Conqueror, some of whose descendants settled in Scotland, where Thomas was a baron, time of Robert III, King of Scotland. James, the 11th lord, who died 1690, was author of memoirs of the Somervilles, which display a family raised to power and eminence by a succession of men of valour and patriotism, then



sunk into obscurity through prodigality and family dissensions, and at length again elevated by the prudence of an individual representative.

James, the thirteenth lord, received an addition to the family estate under interesting circumstances. An ancient branch of the Wichnour family was represented by William Somerville, esquire, of Eadstone, county of Warwick, the author of *The Chase*, and other poems; and he having been relieved by lord Somerville from pecuniary difficulties, and being without issue, settled his estates on the baronial house of Somerville, in Scotland.

John, the fifteenth and late baron, introduced the Merino sheep into Great Britain.

### Bishop Vesey.

Suffering from the effects of civil war, unsupported by a great feudal lord and his retainers, Sutton was left in a neglected condition—the market deserted, the manor house in ruin; but in her solitudes she was nurturing a son faithful to the home of his youth. John Harman, arrived at eminence and enjoying royal favour, employed his advantages to bestow on Sutton a new vitality, freedom, and power. Little can be discovered respecting the family of this benefactor. In 1431 there was a John Harman incumbent of Wishaw, patron, sir John Hore, knight, lord of Wishaw and Langley. The next year a John Harman was vicar of Hampton-in-Arden, patrons, prior and convent of Kenilworth, at the nomination of sir William Mountfort, lord of Hampton, by his first marriage. In 1441 a John Harman was incumbent of Saint Blaize Chapel, in the manor house of Sutton, patron, duke of Clarence. In 1446 Thomas Harman was rector of Aldridge; patron, sir William Mountfort, lord of Aldridge by his second marriage; and who was the son of sir Baldwin Mountfort, and became the great-grandfather of Thomas Mountfort, who resided at Sutton in the reign of Henry VII, whose son Simon married the widow of Hugh Harman. In an Harleian MS. we find a Walter Harman, and the son of Walter, John, and the son of John, William Harman, of Moor Hall. He married Joan, the daughter of Henry Squeir, of Handsworth, of a respectable Staffordshire family. In the monumental inscription in Sutton church, quoted by Dugdale, he, as well as his son Hugh, are called, *alias* Vesey; but no allusion is made to the origin of this

"alias," and the author of the inscription, if the great-nephew Wirley, who erected the monument to the bishop, was apparently ignorant of the occasion of its adoption. Tradition fixes the Moat House as the birthplace of the bishop, and it was perhaps originally known as Moor Hall. It still remains a small stone-built house, in the hollow below the Moor Hall of later date.

William Harman died May 31, 1470; his wife Joan survived until March 8, 1524, new style. They had four children, John, Hugh, Amicia, and Agnes.

John, the heir of the small Sutton patrimony, was induced to take ecclesiastical orders. In 1482 he became a student at Oxford; in 1486 probationary fellow of Magdalen College; and in 1487, by the name of John Harman, perpetual fellow of the same college. Cardinal Wolsey had studied there, and it is thought that to his appreciation of its members, John Harman was indebted for his introduction to royal notice. He took the degree of D.C.L., and became professor of civil law at Oxford. In 1495 Henry VII granted to him, by the name of John Harman, D.C.L., the free chapel of St. Blaize, within his manor of Sutton Coldfield, with all the lands and possessions thereto belonging for life. In the patent recital is made that the said chapel, &c., was formerly granted, also for life, unto one John Harman, priest, 20 Henry VI—[1441-2]—to celebrate divine service therein, according to the founders thereof; and confirmed to him by George duke of Clarence in right of his earldom of Warwick, 12th October, 11 Edward IV—[1471]—and then (viz. 11 Henry VII) surrendered to the king and cancelled to make way for this grant. It was perhaps an uncle, who thus, at an advanced age, made way for him, after holding this small preferment about fifty-four years. The younger John, was made commissary of the bishop of Lincoln, in the archdeaconry of Oxford; from the year 1498 to 1503 he was appointed by the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, vicar-general of this diocese; about 1500 he was vicar of St. Michael's, Coventry, being then more noted for his abilities than his divinity; and in 1515 he was made prebendary of North Aulton in the church of Salisbury, by the name of John Vesey; and also by king Henry VIII tutor to his daughter, the princess Mary, and president of Wales. In 1515 he became dean of Windsor, registrar of the Order of the Garter, archdeacon of Chester, and dean of the king's domestic chapels at Windsor and Exeter, and archdeacon of Barnstaple and præcentor of Exeter.

In 1516 he was dean of the free chapel of Saint Peter and Saint Paul at Wolverhampton, and in 1519 he was consecrated bishop of Exeter. When the talents displayed by Vesey, in several offices, had brought him under the observation of Henry, whose sagacity led him to employ the serviceable powers of men from every rank of life, the king found in him a facile temper, and an intellect marked by penetration, method, and application to business; and became conscious that these qualifications were associated with a heart capable of a strong attachment. And at a period when absolutism did not shock the moral and independent sentiments of mankind, the vigour of that prince's mind and will compelled the admiration, and even the affection, of those persons whom he drew into his service. Vesey was sent on several embassies; and his successive preferments marked the approval of his sovereign. It is said of him, that having been well trained from his youth, he was considered the most accomplished courtier amongst the English bishops. Whether to flatter the king, or from a real discernment of right, he encouraged Henry to oblige ecclesiastics to submit to the civil law. In 1515 Richard Hunne, a merchant tailor, was thrown into the Lollard's tower, accused of heresy, as having a bible of Wickliff's in his house. His case became inconvenient to the spiritual lords, and he was found murdered in the prison. Dr. Horsey, chancellor to the bishop of London, was charged with the crime. The convocation maintained that the clergy were exempt from trial by the civil courts; but Vesey, then dean of the chapel royal, being consulted by the king, advised Henry to maintain the law of the land, and to support Dr. Standish, who had asserted that, in cases of murder, the clergy ought to be subjected to trial before the secular judges. Vesey also observed before the council, that it was certain the laws of the church did not bind any but those who received them. In 1520 the earl of Derby had paid a tribute to the bishop of Exeter's character by appointing him joint executor to his will with the cardinal archbishop of York, and other bishops. He was one of the splendid train which accompanied the king to Calais, on the occasion of his visit to the French monarch in 1532; and in 1534 he was one of the prelates who consecrated Cranmer archbishop of Canterbury. However much his ambition had risen with his fortunes, it must have been gratified by his appointment to one of the most important bishoprics in England, the wealthy see of Exeter, which held rights over extensive territories, and

was possessed of upwards of twenty manors. If he entered on this responsibility under the self-deception that increased influence would only conduce to the wider diffusion of his acts of beneficence, he had to learn what was the feebleness of merely self-supported good intentions; and to discover that his position could only be maintained at the expense both of his inclinations and his conscience. These had probably already yielded to circumstances.

Errors in the church have been ever accompanied by a proportionate low standard of public morals, and integrity was not the characteristic of courtiers at that period. It would seem that Henry placed him amidst these large benefices to avail himself of the bishop's pliant temper, and absorb, without unpopular notoriety, the riches of this see. The spoliation was not carried on with the cordial submission of the incumbent. It was by constraint that he surrendered the extensive manor and hundred of Crediton to the crown. The king wrote his desire that Crediton Park should be conveyed to sir Thomas Dennis; but this was not executed until lord Russell, lord lieutenant of the western counties, and afterwards earl of Bedford, addressed a letter to the bishop, expressing surprise that he should be so backward to accede to his majesty's request, and intimating that the king was determined that sir Thomas Dennis should be accommodated. Numerous were the demands on Vesey's powers of transfer. Bishop-Cheriton and other manors, were wrung from him by men of influence, who perhaps considered the spoil but the restitution of enormous grants formerly extorted from their priest-awed ancestors. Of twenty-two lordships, producing a large revenue, which had devolved upon him from his predecessors in the see of Exeter, he left but seven or eight, and those leased out; and where he found fourteen bishops' residences, well furnished, he left only one, and that denuded. And even these properties were charged with many fees and annuities, by which means the see of Exeter from being one of the richest became one of the poorest in the realm. Nor was any recompence made to him for this surrender of the endowments of his see. He could only carefully enregister all those privy-seals for the vindication of himself to his successors; and perceiving the course taken with church property, he seems to have deemed it expedient not to leave himself altogether unprovided for; accordingly, in 1548, he sold to Thomas Hawkins, the manors, rectories, and vicarages of Chadham and Thorney, in Sussex; of Horsley and Tyting, in

Surrey ; the rectory of South Mims, with the manor of Fernefields, in Middlesex ; and the advowsons of the rectories and vicarages of Chadham, Horsley, South Mims, Fernefields, and Haringham. This Thomas Hawkins, *alias* Fisher, was the son of a fish dealer in Warwick. He was in the service of viscount L'isle, afterwards earl of Warwick and duke of Northumberland, as steward, and became secretary to the duke of Somerset, consequently a person whose favour was to be propitiated. In 1547 he purchased from the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and in 1549 from the crown, many church properties, amongst which were the chantry lands of Sutton Coldfield, and those of Deryate-End, *near* Birmingham. In queen Mary's reign he was examined for a sum of money that had been placed in his trust by the duke of Somerset, for political purposes, and though most severely racked, so that all his fingers were drawn out of joint, he would not reveal it.

Doubtless Vesey speculated anxiously on the consequences of the theological agitations, and the changes in church temporalities then in progress. He was too wise to approve or advocate the past ecclesiastical system, and too worldly to adopt a better ; and his secular eye perceived not the course to genuine reformation, and a holier application of church wealth. Yet he had probably thought of improving the rural districts under his charge ; and as his arms appear on a few parsonage houses, he must have aided in the important work of giving a residence to the parish minister.

But we find a gloomier fact against him than the confiscation of church temporalities. He who had submitted his own conduct to the unwarrantable exactions of the king, and to his doctrinal caprices—who had allowed his own name to be appended to the articles of faith which Henry thought proper to patronize, but which all who adhered to the Romish faith must have judged heresy—the man who had himself yielded the interests of his church to the demands of unscrupulous spoliators, was called upon, in his diocese of Exeter, to pass sentence on an humble individual who had openly protested against prevailing errors.

In 23 Henry VIII, Thomas Bennet, M.A., of the University of Cambridge, publicly avowed his religious opinions, and attached papers to the doors of the cathedral, at Exeter, declaring the pope anti-Christ ; and that God should be worshipped, and not the saints. For this he was charged at Exeter with heresy, brought before the bishop in

open consistory, found guilty, and condemned to be burned. The sheriff ordered a stake to be erected at Southernhay, but the chamber of Exeter did not allow it, and the terrible scene was enacted at a place called Livery Dole. The church of Rome having, for ages, found herself under the necessity of maintaining her influence by violence, had so thoroughly educated the mind of Europe in the persuasion that the persecution of an opposing creed was an acceptable service to God, that it was long before a full acquaintance with His Word disabused the public mind of England on that point. And here we see the polished courtier, the amiable philanthropist, the large-minded patriot, compelled by his church, to be the perpetrator of the cruellest of deaths, on a youth who dared to be a martyr in honour of his Saviour, and in behalf of his fellow Christians. But did the agonies of that tortured frame ever cease to haunt the inner eye of his judge?

We will now turn to the brightest traits in the bishop's character, evidenced by his conduct towards Sutton. To this, his early home, he seems to have turned with fonder regard as the times produced fresh troubles, and his own observation discovered more and more the insecurity of all connected with public life, and the great world. Neither episcopal duties nor episcopal palaces held him in Devonshire, and in 1527, determining to have a residence at Sutton, he obtained from the king certain parcels of inclosure, called Moor Crofts and Heath Yards, and more than forty acres of waste, with license to enclose it. Here he built from the ground near the ancient Moat House of his ancestors, the mansion of Moor Hall, in which he could maintain an hospitality suited both to his station and his inclination; for he had not so long frequented a splendid court without acquiring its tastes. Here he expended the income of £1,500, a large one in those days. His retinue consisted of 140 men in scarlet caps and gowns. Not ungrateful to his royal patron, nor unmindful of attentions which were known to be agreeable, he sent twenty able men, provisioned with £100, to attend the king at the Siege of Boulogne, in 1544, and twice as many brave Sutton men to the field of Norwich. The historian does not give the date, whether the following year, when they might join the army preparing to invade Scotland, or 1549, when they might aid the earl of Warwick to suppress Kett's rebellion in Norfolk; he also gave them additional funds, in case of sickness, and, on their return, rewarded them with lands and maintenance.

In 1527 he made arrangements with several persons for a trusteeship of certain rents, to provide a competent priest, who should perform divine service three times a week in the parish church. This scheme failed after a few years.

But his most distinguished measure for the welfare of Sutton, was the obtaining from the king, December 16, 1528, a charter containing the grant of the manor of Sutton Coldfield, to be placed in trust of a Corporation, for the benefit of the inhabitants.

This charter has been translated and published, and therefore a digest only will be given in this work.

The philanthropy in advance of his age, the forethought and wisdom which it displays, command our warmest admiration; and we reverence in him a patriotism, which, at a time when he might have grasped the whole territory for himself, and when the nobles of the land still prided themselves in feudal power, led him to transmit to Sutton an untrammelled self-government, and a free enjoyment of rich local advantages.

He destroyed the Chase, as regarded the preservation of deer, with its feudal regulations; and, making the Corporation lords of the manor, he enabled the inhabitants to depasture their cattle in the park and commons at a small yearly payment. At his own cost of £43. 2s. 6d. he inclosed the coppices called the Seven Hayes, *i.e.*, Ladywood, Pool Hollies, Stretley Coppice, Darnelhurst, Upper and Lower Nuthurst, and Hollyhurst, and added gates and locks; and towards the ditching and quicksetting of the park fences, at one time gave £16. 8s. 10d., and at another, £10. 16s. 8d., and then he stored the park, at the cost of £40., with mares, colts, and horses. He paved the whole town at the cost of £40. 3s. 8d., which work has lasted to the present day, except where the road-surveyors have removed the carriage-way stones, for the less noisy Macadamized material. He paid 41s. for the warden's expenses at the first Court Leet, and for weights and balances for the assize. In 1530 he gave to the church an organ costing £14. 2s. 8d; and in 1533 enlarged the church by building two aisles, at the cost of £92. 12s. 2d., with £4. 6s. 11d. for their further fittings. He built a free grammar school, probably that building called St. Mary's Hall, opposite the south-east corner of the churchyard, which fell down at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The dwelling house for the master, at the south-west corner of the churchyard, was of stone, and might be of the same date. It

was pulled down in 1832, when the churchyard was enlarged and extended over its site and garden. This school he endowed in 1541 with the lands, &c., on which he had, 16 years previously purposed to lay a perpetual rent-charge for the benefit of the parish minister.

He gave, for the benefit of poor widows, a meadow, which bears the name of the Lord's Meadow; and, desirous to see the extensive wastes cultivated, and hamlets rising amid the outwoods, he built within the lordship 51 houses of stone, a few of which yet stand, with Tudor-arched doorways, and, in a few instances, spiral staircases. He also endeavoured to promote the welfare of the district, that the people might live more happily, as he expresses it, in his grant to the school, by introducing the trade in kerseys, as he had met with it in Devonshire, and he set up looms for this manufacture, one of which remained in a half-timbered cottage adjoining the north-west wall of the churchyard, until it was pulled down, in 1835, to make room for a new school-room. But the want of water-carriage, and of neighbouring towns connected with the wool trade, soon brought the attempt to a failure—and pleasantly so; for otherwise the time had come, when the click of the solitary loom would have yielded to the rumble of the mill, and attendant chimneys would have deluged our skies and fields with darkness, and drawn around a squalid population, which would soon have rendered the benevolent bishop's legacies of fractional value, or reduced them to a mere check to misery, instead of a liberal encouragement to virtue.

To prevent robberies, which in those days were frequent on the roads crossing each other over Bassett's Heath, the bishop built a house on a piece of waste called Cotty's Moor, containing nine acres of ground, lying in a desert place near Canwell Gate, which place, Dugdale remarks, was deservedly styled the den and haunt of thieves. This is now known by the names of Muffin's Den and Roughley Cottage. In the newly-built house he placed one of his servants, for the rent of 2s. yearly at Midsummer, paid to himself and his heirs, and 1s. 6d. to the warden and fellowship of Sutton and their successors.

According to the evidence of a woman, who spoke from her personal recollections, before a commission appointed in the time of James I, to take the boundaries of Weeford and the surrounding parishes, the bishop frequently visited the parts in which he was carrying on these works of civilization, and



noticing that the roads were unsafe for horsemen, in consequence of the quantity of rolling pebbles, he hired poor people to gather them out of the way, and lay them in heaps, of which several were at that time remaining between Canwell and Swinfen.

At his own expense he also built two bridges of stone, one at Water Orton and one at Curdworth; and for the purpose pulled down the remaining stone walls of the Manor House at Sutton.

The death of Henry VIII, in January, 1547, did not relieve the bishop from extortions. As has been shewn, they were renewed by men in power about the young king. Vesey also sold church property, in the following year, on his own account. His frequent absences from his diocese betray much disregard of the duties attached to it, and in 1549 an alarming agrarian insurrection broke out in Devonshire, which was not crushed until lord Russell encountered the rebels who were besieging Exeter, and routed them with the loss of one thousand of their force. The bishop has been reproached with this disturbance: by some it has been attributed to his neglect; by others to his instigation in behalf of the Romish faith, but it is improbable that his conduct had any connection with the commotion, which was led by the dispossessed monks. With the exception of his unsuccessful attempt to institute three services a week in Sutton church, we know of no direct effort that he made in behalf of religion, and in the founding of the free grammar school, he expressly stipulated for a layman as master.

Archbishop Cranmer and his pious friends determined to carry on the reformation with patience, progressively. It was by a slow and careful consideration that they had themselves arrived at the perception of truths. Most of the bishops were decidedly in their favour, or resolved to swim with the stream; and Vesey, during the first three years of Edward's reign, was of the latter class; but afterwards chagrined, perhaps at what he had seen and done, and fearing to come into collision with the reforming party, Coverdale having been made his coadjutor 26th June, 1550, in that year he tendered his resignation of the see of Exeter, pleading his advanced age as rendering him unfit for the arduous duties of the office. This was done only by word of mouth to the earl of Bedford; but it was an act so well received by the king and his council, that they wrote gracefully to thank the aged prelate for the surrender, whom, as the long-tried servant of the late king,

they could not but respect. It was then granted that he should enjoy all annuities given him out of the lands of the bishopric, whereof he had made a state in fee simple to the earl of Bedford and other noblemen; and also enjoy certain rents, previously granted out of the bishopric, that were then come into his hands; and that he might plead in any court by the name of John Vesey. These grants for his future subsistence were made in July, 1551.

The Government was anxious to place an active, preaching bishop in the see, and therefore appointed to it the eminent Miles Coverdale.

The revenues had been so much impaired under the late diocesan that, although it had been formerly valued in the king's books at £1,565. 13s. 6½d. yearly, it was now set there but at £500, and the tenths to be £50 hereafter yearly; and Coverdale was to be discharged of that first year's tenths, and all arrearage in the old bishop's time.

The early death of the pious young king brought his sister Mary on the throne, and a dark cloud over the Reformation. The appointments under a Protestant reign were reversed, twelve thousand clergy were removed from their benefices, and the fires of martyrdom were soon re-lighted. Coverdale fled to the continent, and at Geneva assisted in a new English translation of the Scriptures. Vesey was restored to his episcopate; but as the infirmities of age disabled him from attending to his see, Dr. Moreman was made his coadjutor.

After a long public life during a period of most important political and religious changes, Vesey ended his career in the quietness of his Coldfield home. He died suddenly in the year 1555, at the age of 103, according to the inscription placed on his monument by his great-nephew, John Wyrley; but according to the opinion of later chroniclers, ten years may be taken away from that age.

The bishop was surrounded at Sutton by his relations. Those connected with him who held the office of warden during his lifetime were, in 1529, the first year of the corporation, William Gibbons, who had married his younger sister, Agnes, and whose descendants occasionally filled that office until the year 1473, when Joseph Gibbons held it; John Leveson, or Lewson, warden the second year, who had married his elder sister Amicia; John Harman, the son of his deceased brother, Hugh; William Harman, a younger nephew; Thomas Keen, the husband of one of his nieces, Gibbons; Thomas Gibbons, a nephew; Robert Pudsey, husband of his niece,

Eleanor Harman; Thomas Yardley (to persons of whose name two of the great-nieces of the bishop were married); and Thomas Lisle, whose name was perhaps the same with that of the family at Moxhull, and of the wife of Thomas Harman, spelt Lisley. The name of Massey, one of whom Joyce Harman married, appears as warden after the death of the bishop. It was that of a respectable family at Erdington, and John Massey, justice of the peace there, was probably the same with the husband of the bishop's niece.

In the north aisle of the church is a monument placed there to the memory of bishop Vesey; upon it is his effigy in episcopal attire, coloured, and the inscription below is as follows:

"Beneath lie the remains of that pious and learned prelate, John Harman, *alias* Vesey, who was promoted by king Henry VIII, in the eleventh year of his reign, to the see of Exeter; was employed by him on sundry embassies; was tutor to his then only daughter, the lady Mary; and president of Wales.

"So great was his affection for this his native place, that he spared neither cost nor pains to improve it, and make it flourish. He procured it to be incorporated by the name of a Warden and Society of the king's town of Sutton Coldfield, granting to them and their successors for ever the Chase, Park, and Manor.

"He built two aisles to the church, and an organ; erected the Moot Hall, with a prison under it, and a market place; fifty-one stone houses; two stone bridges, one at Curdworth and one at Water Orton; paved the whole town; gave a meadow to poor widows; and for the improvement of youth, founded and endowed a free grammar school (which was rebuilt 1728).

"He built Moor Hall, where he spent the latter part of his life in hospitality and splendour; saw for many years the good effects of his munificence; and died in the 103rd year of his age, in the year of our Lord 1555.

"This monument, erected by John Wyrley, of Hampstead, in Handsworth, esq., to the memory of the good bishop, his great-uncle, was repaired and beautified by the corporation in the year of our Lord 1827."

Above the bishop's tomb are placed two Latin inscriptions, copied from tombstones now perished. This one beneath two large and four small effigies:

"*Orate pro animabus* of William Harman *alias* Vesey and Joan his wife, having four children, viz., John, Bishop of Exeter: Hugh, married to Joyce, daughter of William Rigeley of Dunton, Amicia their elder daughter married to John Leveson, and Agnes their younger daughter married to William Gibbons. Which William Harman died the last day of May 10 E. IV. And the said Joan died 8th of March 15th H. VIII, and the year 1523." [1524, N.S.]

And at the foot of three effigies on a tomb:

"*Orate pro anima* of Hugh Harman *alias* Vesey brother and heir of John Bishop of Exeter, which Hugh died 24th day of November, 1523, and in the 14th H. VIII. His first wife was Anna daughter of Humphry Golson, by whom he had two daughters, Joyce the elder and Eliz. the younger. His second wife was Joyce daughter of William Rugeley, by whom he had two sons, viz., John and William, and four daughters, Joan, Eleanor, Margaret, and Dorothy.

Another tablet had the inscription:

"In piam Harmanorum familiæ memoriam, et Johannis Exon. Episcopi. Posuit suos adnepos Joh: Wyrley de Hampsted. Eq: Aur:"

When Dugdale wrote, in 1656, there were, in a window on

the north side of the chancel, a figure of a bishop kneeling, with crozier, and the mitre before him, and this inscription below :

" Orate pro anima John Harman nuper prelictis Exoniæ."

Also the bishop's arms, with legend on either side :

" Dextra Dei exaltavit me. Dextra Dei fecit Salutem."

Dugdale gives the two following epitaphs as from the north wall :

" Here rests Agnes younger daughter of William Harman, lord of Moor Hall, wife of William Gibbons, by whom he had two sons, John, clerk, and Thomas; and three daughters, the eldest married to Edward East; which Agnes, the mother, died 5th day of Feb., 1520." [1521, N.S.]

" Orate pro animabus John Leveson and Amicia his wife, who had issue William Chancellor of Exeter cathedral: and Elizabeth married to Thomas Yard, esq. co. Devon: and Anna married to George Robinson merchant of London."

In Handsworth church :

" Here lyeth buried the bodies of Thomas Wyrley, esq., and Dorothee his wife, daughter of Hugh Harman, esq. The said Thomas died in March A.D. 1583, and the said Dorothee in Jan. 1597 (1598) and they had ten sons and eleven daughters between them."

The pedigree of the Wyrleys is in Shaw's *History of Staffordshire*.

With regard to the name of Vesey, it is probable that the bishop had grounds for considering it his original family name, and that the name of Harman, which had been borne for several generations, was an assumed one. The family of Veci came into England at the Conquest; after which Robert de Veci had, with other possessions, lands in Whitacre. Many of the name, variously spelt, are recorded in the bishop's registers at Lichfield.

There appear to have been several families of the name, often spelt Veasey, contemporaries of the bishop, at Sutton; and their descendants continued at Sutton for several generations, as is shewn by numerous entries in the parish registers, and also in the list of wardens; but from wills and other evidence they were in humble circumstances.

The last of the Harmans traceable at Sutton is Raphael, probably great-nephew of the bishop. He was warden 1577 and 1591. A child of his is registered as baptized by the name of Frances in the year 1603, the earliest date of the Sutton registers; and the registry of Raphael's death occurs in January, 1606-7.

In 1759 William Orton and Elizabeth Harman, both of this parish, were married.

It would be interesting to discover the direct descent of families from the nephews of the bishop.

Of the Gibbons there are numerous entries in the list of wardens and in the parish registers. In the time of queen Elizabeth, 1559, John Gibbin, or Gibbon, of London, esq., D.C.L., purchased the advowson of Sutton Church, and transferred it, by sale, to Thomas Gibbon, of New Hall, esq., who, in 1586, sold it for £100 to John Shilton. The family were possessed of landed property in this parish, and appear to have inclosed lands for themselves on the Coldfield, under the provisions of the Charter. In 1739 John Gibbons was deputy steward. The last warden of the name was Joseph Gibbons, in the years 1742, 1743. And the last recorded in the register of Sutton burials was Mrs. Mary Gibbons, 1798, the daughter of the deputy steward, born 1739.

Vesey arms: argent, on a cross sable, a buck's head, couped between four martlets of the first; on a chief azure, a cross patonce, between two roses or, barbed and seeded proper.

For pedigree of the Harman family, see Appendix, No. 1.

### Moor Hall,

built and inhabited by bishop Vesey, became, at his death, 1555, the inheritance of his nephew, John Harman, after which there does not appear a trace of its history for more than a century. An entry in the parish register states that on the 8th of February, 1665, was baptized at Moor Hall, by Dr. Watson, Jane, a child of Arthur Fleetwood, esq. During the Civil Wars, the rev. James Fleetwood had been appointed to the rectory of Sutton. In the same register, in the year 1690, John Addyes, esq., is first styled of Moor Hall, at the baptism of his sixth child, his eldest having been registered in 1682. John Addyes was, in all probability, the younger son of Thomas Addyes, of Great Barr and Maney, warden in 1633. John was warden in 1668 and 1688, and was appointed a trustee of the Grammar School in 1675; he died in 1706. Of his nine children only three are recorded as surviving their youth: Mary, born 1682, married in 1700 Robert Yates, gent.; Anne, a younger daughter, born 1689, married in 1712 Richard Scott, esq., of little Aston. Their only child, Mary Scott, married Andrew Hacket, esq., of Moxhull, whose second son, John Hacket, inherited Moor Hall from his great-uncle, John Addyes, junior, born 1684. This John Addyes was appointed a trustee of the Grammar School in 1709, and died 1762, leaving Moor Hall to his great-nephew, John Hacket. The latter then added to his own name that of

Addyes, and came to reside at Moor Hall; he died in 1710, bequeathing the estate to his nephew, Francis Beynon Hacket, esq., the present proprietor.

The Hacket family was formerly settled in Lincolnshire. Andrew Hacket, by birth a Scotchman, came to London. His son John, born in the Strand, was educated at Westminster School, and became Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He entered into holy orders, and was made chaplain to Dr. Williams, bishop of Lincoln, whose memoirs he afterwards wrote. The bishop was lord chancellor to James I, and he made Hacket chaplain to the king; he was also rector of Holborn, parson of Cheam, and archdeacon of Bedford, all of which preferments he held until the rebellion of 1642. In his time the church of Holborn was much decayed, and he collected several thousand pounds for its restoration, which money, with other similar charities, was seized by the Long Parliament to assist in carrying on their resistance to the king.

He was on the committee appointed to examine the liturgy, in order to rectify what most displeased the prevailing party; but this measure was frustrated by a bill which overturned episcopacy. He had been chosen by the clergy as mediator, and his efforts had for some time delayed the bill.

Hacket was then forbidden to preach at Holborn, and he retired to Cheam, where he persevered in the use of the liturgy, although it had been forbidden under severe penalties. At length a sergeant and troops were sent to compel his silence. They found him in the church, reading the service of the prayer book. He continued his devotions in a strong steady voice, and when a pistol was presented to his head, he said calmly, "Soldier, I am doing my duty, do you do yours," and with a loud voice he read on, upon which the astonished soldiers left the church. Dr. Hacket was for some time imprisoned for this offence. At the Restoration he refused the bishopric of Gloucester: but in 1661 he was instituted to the see of Coventry and Lichfield, the appellation of which he changed by giving the church of Lichfield the precedence. He used great exertions for restoring the cathedral, which had been severely injured by the parliament army, and spent on it, in eight years, £19,000 of his own money. He also took great pains to promote the efficiency and holiness of his clergy. He preached much himself and his sermons at Sutton church were noted in the parish registers. After his death, in 1670, two works were published in his name—

*Christian Consolations, and A Century of Sermons*, with his life, by Thomas Plume. His body was buried in Lichfield cathedral, and a monument was placed over it, by his son, sir Andrew Hacket. He was one of the masters-in-chancery, and married the daughter and co-heiress of John Lisle, esq., of Moxhull.

Arms: sable, three piles in point argent; on a chief gules, a lion passant guardant, or.

For pedigree of the Hacket family see Appendix, No. 2.

## Charters.

### Analysis of the Charter 20 Henry VIII (December 16) 1528:

Henry VIII unto our well beloved liege men, inhabitants and residents within our town, manor, and lordship of Sutton Coldefield, otherwise Sutton Colvyle, or Coldefylde, that henceforward they be one body incorporated of one warden, and society of the same town, manor, and lordship, for ever; the town and village to be called the royal town of Sutton Coldefylde; the same men to be called the warden and society of Sutton Coldfylde, and have power to purchase under that name, and to plead under it in any court, and have a common seal.

William Gybons to be the first warden. The corporation to build a Mote Hall, in which the inhabitants of the lordship—men of the age of 22—shall convene and choose out of themselves 25 good and honest men, of which the warden shall be one; thenceforth, from year to year, on the 2nd November, after divine service, to elect one of themselves to be warden for one year, who, if he shall refuse the office, shall lose his place in the corporation. The warden to take an oath of allegiance and just administration; and that he will take care that true weights and measures be in use; and that vagabonds be duly corrected—that no such persons shall have a voice in the aforesaid elections (this was aimed against the begging friars and other orders of monks ejected); that he will take care that the profits of the lands, &c., be distributed in exonerating the poor from the subsidies of the king, or for the building of houses within the lordship, or for the marriage of poor girls, or some pious secular use. The other members, on election, to take an oath to assist the warden. The full number to be filled up by the election of a majority on or before every 2nd of November.

Whereas in 16 Henry VIII we had given to sir Walter Devereux, knight, lord Ferrars, and his son, the office of bailiff of our manor of Sutton Coldfeld: and also the office of park keeper, and keeper of our bailiwick called Coldefyld Walk, within our Chase of Sutton, for the term of our lives, to receive the profits, as sir Henry Guildford had previously; and free fishing of all the pools. And Henry VII, in 20 Henry VII, had given to Henry Willoughby, knight, the offices of steward of his lordship of Sutton and Coldefyld, in the counties of Warwick and Stafford, and master of the toils of his park of Sutton and the Chase there; and after the death of Henry Willoughby, gave the same to Walter Devereux.

And we, in 3 Henry VIII, had granted to William Rigley the office of keeper of our Chase of Hilwood (which Rowland Stafford lately had); and also the office of keeper of our wood and wild animals, and outwood, called Lynriche (which Thomas Wollerton lately had); and, to Lodovico Wyndwood, the farm of the herbage in our park, parcels of the land of late belonging to Anne, countess of Warwick, to hold for 21 years, rendering to us £8. 13s. 4d., as formerly, and 6s. 8d. more of increase by the year. Notwithstanding these grants, we give the warden, &c., all our town and manor of Sutton Colfelde, with our chase and park, pools, messuages, woods and wastes, &c., to hold all the great liberties anciently appertaining to the lordship, in fee farm for ever, rendering of the manors and tenements called Warwick's lands and Spencer's lands, £9, and beyond that £5 for all underwoods there; and after the term of the said Lodovick, £14, and £11 increase yearly;

and after the death of lord Ferrars, £16. 2s. 11½d. yearly; and after the death of Walter Devereux and sir Henry Willoughby, knight, 119s. 0½d.; and after the death of William Rigley, the additional sum of £5. 6s. 2d.; and after the death of J. Welsborne, £3. 0s. 8d.; and for an increased rent, 51s. 2d. yearly; all which sums will amount to £58., to be paid to us and our heirs on Michaelmas Day.

The warden, &c., to have power to purchase lands of the yearly value of £10. The warden to be clerk of the market.

We grant to the warden, &c., the leet and view of frankpledge within the lordship, and whatever belongs to the leet; and to have the amendment of the assize of bread and ale, and saleable wares, with profits and fines, waifs, strays, infang-theft, and outfangtheft, within the manor. The society and inhabitants to have one market on Monday, and two fairs within the town, during three days at the feast of the Holy Trinity and of St. Simon and St. Jude. No toll to be taken on our subjects resorting there.

We give to the society and inhabitants free warren in all lands, waters, &c., within the lordship, so that no one may hunt or take any thing there without license of the warden, &c., on pain of forfeiture of £10 to them. The warden, &c., may freely hunt, fish, and fowl there, with dogs, bows and arrows, and other engines, for deer, stag, hares, foxes, and other wild beasts.

Any person being willing to build and inhabit a house in any parcel of the waste land, may inclose 60 acres of the waste, contiguous to the house, to hold for ever, rendering yearly to the warden, &c., 2d. for every acre, in fee farm.

The warden, &c., to appoint a fit person, learned in the law of the land, to be steward of the corporation, to hold the courts, leets, and view of frankpledge, by himself or his sufficient deputy; one court to be held every week, on Monday, of all manner of pleas, so that one party in the complaint be dwelling within the lordship—with power to determine all suits, trespasses, debts, covenants, and deceits, happening within the lordship; that court to be a court of record, and the warden, or steward, to have full power, as in our city of Coventry; they may have one or two sergeants-at-mace.

The warden to be coroner, so that no other coroner may enter within the lordship.

The warden, &c., to have full return of all writs, and the execution of them, so that no sheriff may enter the lordship to execute any writ.

The warden, &c., to make statutes and provisions in the town for the public good of the inhabitants; and to provide within the lordship a prison, and by their servants to have the custody of the persons detained in it.

Witnessed at Westminster.

Charter, 16 Charles II (July 27), 1664:

We confirm to the warden, &c., all the privileges granted by Henry VIII, or that by other prescription they have lawfully enjoyed; also that from henceforth there shall be two persons of the more honest and discreet men of that society chosen, to be named capital burgesses—George Pudsey, esq., and Henry Pudsey, his son, to be the first two, and for life; in case of death or removal the warden, &c., to elect from their body to fill up the vacancy. The warden and capital burgesses to be our justices of the peace in the lordship, to determine all manner of riots, routs, oppressions, extortions, forestallers, regrators, transgressions, offences, matters, articles, and things that can belong to the office of justice of the peace, so that they do not determine of any matter touching life or limb without our special mandate. The warden may carry a white staff. Warden, capital burgesses, steward, deputy steward, to take the oath of obedience and supremacy.

## The Grammar School.

In 1527 John Gibons, clerk, and twenty others, granted to bishop Vesey all their possessions in Great Sutton, Ashfur-long, Maneyhill, and Wigginhill, to the intent that he might grant to them a yearly rent of £7 on these premises, with which they and their heirs should support for ever a fit priest,



to celebrate divine service, thrice in the week, in the parish church of Sutton: or should find, with the advice of the curate of the said church, an honest layman to teach grammar and rhetoric in the town, who, with his scholars, should daily sing the psalm, *de profundis*, for the souls of their benefactors, and if such a fit person could not be had, then they should find lay artificers to teach the arts: or should apply the rent to other pious uses, as directed by the bishop in a schedule annexed, in which he ordained that, as often as nine of the grantees should die, the survivors should enfeof nine other trustworthy inhabitants of the same rent for ever.

In 1540 the bishop, aided by Thomas Gebons, Hugh Turner, Richard Turner and Mary his wife, granted a rent of £7 on certain tenements in King's Sutton to the warden and society, that they might provide a learned layman to teach grammar and rhetoric.

In 1541, thinking this an insufficient provision, the bishop augmented it by lands to the annual value of £3. 9s. 7d. The names of tenants were Norman, Ketyll, Wright, Cowper, and Richard Veysie, who had two pastures called Highfields; this scheme having failed, in consequence of the death of twelve feoffees, without the appointment of successors, and also of an act of parliament transferring uses into possession, the bishop, desirous to perfect his intentions, granted, in 1543, to the warden and society, lands, &c., to the annual value of £2. 17s. and 2 lbs. of wax: the names of occupiers were Richards, Haughton *alias* Smith, Underwood, Wright, Smallwood, Blythe, Priest, Charnell, Merson, Stalward, Spooner, Turner, and Bogen, to whom the bishop had given the two Birchcrofts in Ashfurlong, charged with 2s. rent. The names of some of the premises were Rodway Field, Comberlands (late tenanted by T. Comber), Hogs Fields, called Pentrich, from a late tenant, all in Ashfurlong; a Pentrich-in-the-Hill, Bedsthyng (late occupied by Bede), le Breche, Gallowcroft (late of John-in-the-Holes, in Hill), land in the Moor-meadow and Brookfield, Stony-furlong Wellfelde, and le Gate, St. Mary Hall in Great Sutton, late of the tenure of sir Roger Moseley, knt., then of Thomas Aderley, and, in 1543, of John Savage, schoolmaster; a cottage, with appurtenances, lying upon Oker Hill, near the High Cross, in Great Sutton, late of sir Roger Moseley, knt., and "upon which the Mote Hall is now built, at the charges of me, the aforesaid bishop," and Red Hill, in Sutton, late held by John Holbage.

Then Thomas Gibbons, Hugh Turner, Richard Turner, and

Mary his wife, granted to the warden and society lands of the annual rent of £3. 6s. 4d., that the Corporation might find a learned layman to teach grammar as beforesaid: or if such fit person could not be had, some lay artificers to teach their arts, that the inhabitants might live well and more happily: or that they should distribute the said rents, in exoneration of the king's taxes, on the poor of the parish; or for the marriage portions of poor girls; or other pious secular purposes.

Thus empowered, in 1544 the Corporation instituted John Savage to the school for life, granting him a salary of £10 per annum out of the lands; and in 1546 they again exercised their power, and appointed another master, Lawrence Noel, "whose memory is still famous," says Dugdale, "for his singular learning." But though he was a man so eminent in scholarship, his skill in training pupils fell far short of expectation; for it appears the Corporation soon exhibited articles in chancery against him for neglecting his school. But after a commission had received the depositions, he procured letters from the council table, admonishing them that they should not attempt his removal except any notable crime were proved against him. Eventually, feeling himself unacceptable, he took his arrears, towards which the bishop gave five marks, and, in 1548, resigned.

A century later, Dugdale wrote thus: "How long these trustees continued so zealous for the good of the school I cannot affirm; perhaps whilst the bishop lived. Sure I am, that to such a height of covetousness they did in time grow, that to prevent the schoolmasters from enjoying what was justly due to them, they contrived to elect them of the Corporation before they could be acquainted with their right; so that, having made leases of their land to their children, or friends, for small rents received, it should not be in the schoolmaster's power, being so bound up as one of that body politic, to question the same. Thus was the pious intent of the well-meaning founder abused, till that the fraud was discovered, and remedy had by a chancery decree, at the prosecution of John Michael, then master of the school, lord Coventry being keeper of the seals."

Two successive commissions, issued in the reign of Charles I, after inquisitions, declared that those alienations should be set aside, and the lands should be transferred by the Corporation to two separate bodies of trustees, named by the commissioners. By the first decree, in 1634, the trustees should make leases in possession, not exceeding the term of twenty-one

years; and when the number of trustees should be reduced to three or four, the survivors should fill up the trust, so that there should be thirteen trustees, at the least, of the honest and sufficient inhabitants within twenty miles of Sutton; and that the trustees should permit the schoolmaster to enjoy, for his more convenient housekeeping and tabling of scholars, a close called Highfield, tenanted by William Cock, another Highfield, held by John Hall, and a pasture ground, called Broomy Close; and that the writings concerning the school lands should be kept in a chest with three locks, in the parish church or other convenient place, the keys to be kept by three trustees, nominated by the rest.

The second decree—[1639]—permitted the master of the school to make his best profit of the land, by letting it from year to year, or for twenty-one years; and to hold some other premises mentioned.

These premises became vested, by survivorship, in William Dugdale, esq., who, in 1765, conveyed them to new trustees; and the premises having again become united, by survivorship, in the same persons as trustees, have since been all transferred, from time to time, by one deed, to one set of trustees.

Several rentals belonging to the school, taken at different periods, are preserved. A survey in 1724 shews the amount of land to have been 138A. 0R. 31½P. And in 1817 the amount was 136A. 1R. 36P.

In the account of 1724, Hall's tenement and the croft called le Breche are missing. A few rents in Maney, Wigginshill, Ashfurlong, and Sutton have also been lost. In 1762 the estate was considered worth nearly £100 per annum.

The trustees made some alterations of the property by exchange, under the Inclosure Act of 1824. They exchanged with the Corporation some tenements on the church hill (*i.e.*, the old school-house, with garden and two outbuildings, and a yard below) for the school-house situate at the upper end of the town, on the north-east side of the turnpike road, with garden, orchard, and land (about three and a half acres), formerly held by Mr. Lowe. In 1835 the Charity Commissioners stated the annual value of the property at £469. 7s.

The school-house was a small dwelling, built of stone, on the rocky cliff at the south-west corner of the churchyard, to which the aspirants to learning had climbed by a flight of steps out of Blind Lane. It was pulled down in 1832, that the churchyard might be extended over its site and its garden.

It is stated, in a Corporation deed of 1727, that the school-house had recently fallen down. This was most probably the St. Mary Hall, a separate school-room of suitable dimensions, opposite the south-east corner of the churchyard, where a more modern dwelling has been raised on old stone foundations.

In 1727-8 the Corporation allowed £400 to Mr. Paul Lowe, then master of the school, that he might build a new school-room and house on a croft purchased by the Corporation for the purpose, the old school having lately fallen down. Mr. Lowe expended £300, at his own cost, to complete the buildings, on which account the Corporation covenanted with him that he should have possession of the premises during life, and that £100 should be paid for them to his executors, and that his successors should enjoy the premises at the yearly rent of £5; for which the master was to instruct, in writing, arithmetic, and English, a class of twelve boys, of Sutton parish, under the age of fourteen.

The £100 was paid to the executors of Mr. Lowe, in 1766, by the succeeding master, William Webb, B.A., of Brazenose College, Oxford, who, in 1817, was succeeded by Charles Barker, B.C.L., of Trinity College, Oxford, who, under the Inclosure Act of 1824, effected an arrangement by which these premises were made over to the trustees of the school, and the master was released from the care of the English school, which was removed to the building formerly used as the parish workhouse, and afterwards provided with a school-room, built in 1835, on the church hill, at the north entrance of the churchyard. In 1842 Mr. Barker was succeeded by Mr. Eccleston, of Dublin University; and in 1849 he was superseded by Josiah Wright, A.M., of Trinity College, Cambridge, the present head master.

The following regulations of the Free Grammar School were confirmed by the Court of Chancery in 1843 :

The trustees, elected from within twenty miles of Sutton, to be the governors; and when reduced in number to three, the trust to be filled up by a fresh election; to meet twice a year, and transact business; to have power to let the estates for a period not exceeding twenty-one years; to provide suitable regulations for the school; and to appoint a treasurer.

The master to be a learned layman, a graduate of one of the universities, elected by the governors. An under master to be appointed, nominated by the master, of the Church of England, and competent to teach the classics, mathematics, and general literature, at £100 per annum salary, to which one-fourth of the sums paid by the scholars to be added.

All boys whose parents or guardians live within the parish to be admissible into the school at the payment of 10s. per quarter. Boys residing outside the parish to be allowed to attend at a farther charge of £1. 10s. per quarter, if under the age of fifteen, and of £2. 10s. per quarter if above that age. None admissible under eight, or who cannot read, write, and work the first four rules of arithmetic. The expulsion or suspension of a scholar to be submitted to the governors.

The school to be for instruction in the classics and religion, according to the principles of the Church of England, and also to teach arithmetic, algebra, English composition, history, &c., and drawing, &c.

The master to arrange for proper masters to instruct in modern languages and the arts.

An annual examination of all the scholars to take place, the examiner to be appointed by the governors.

There does not appear amongst the school documents a list of the masters.

In 1544, John Savage was the first instituted.

In 1546, he was succeeded by Lawrence Noel.

John Michael is mentioned by Dugdale at a later period.

A John Savage appears as master amongst the signatures of a trustee deed in 1639.

William Hill was for some time master. He was born at Curdworth in 1619, and became a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford. In after years he applied himself to medicine, and practised in London. He then removed to Dublin, and became D.D., and had the mastership of St. Patrick's school, from which he was expelled at the Restoration. He died 1667. He was a learned critic, and published *Dyonisie Orbis Descriptio*.

John Elley, B.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, was master in 1647—*Cole's MSS., Brit. Mus.*

William Chancy is named as master in the parish register, where his children are entered from 1661 to 1668, and his name appears in the list of householders of 1671. He died, at Sutton, 1687.

The next name on record is that of Paul Lowe, in the middle of the eighteenth century, who is said to have held the school for fifty years.

## The Church

is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. There is no mention of a church in the Conqueror's survey, and the date of its foundation is not recorded; but the style of its tower and chancel window point to the 13th century, when first the powerful earls of Warwick resorted to Sutton for the chase. In 1553 the church was enlarged by bishop Vesey, who added the north and south aisles. He also gave to it an organ; and in 1556 Richard Veisey, yeoman, bequeathed—

“3s. & 4d. toward the castyng of the fyrste bell, and making it consonant with the other bells.”

In 1739 the Corporation agreed to apply their rents to the repair of the church. In 1758 they gave £737 towards the new pewing of it, which was completed in 1761. In 1759 the nave, being much decayed, fell down, and the Corporation were at the charge of fitting up the chancel for divine service, and of the repair of the church, which restoration was effected in all the bad taste in architecture common to the period. About the same time the church was provided with a clock and a chime of six bells; but these becoming out of tune, in 1786 the inhabitants proved themselves not insensible to the charms of melody, by preferring the expense of a new fine chime of six bells, to an outlay of the money in flagging the street, the option having been placed before them.

By an inquisition after the death of Guy, earl of Warwick—[1291]—the advowson was estimated at twenty marks, and in 26 Henry VIII—[1534]—at £33. 9s., over and above 12s. yearly, allowed for procurations and synodals.

There was in the church a chantry, founded by one Thomas Broadmeadow (time unknown), for one priest to sing mass and to pray for the soul of the same Thomas and his parents; the value of the lands and rents belonging thereto being, in 26 Henry VIII, rated at 106s. 8d., and in 37 Henry VIII at 100s. This was purchased, about the year 1549, by Thomas Hawkins, *alias* Fisher (mentioned in the life of bishop Vesey).

The patronage, which had been seized by Henry VII, along with the estates of the earl of Warwick, remained with the crown until the advowson was sold, by queen Elizabeth, to John Glascock, and Blunt, of London, gent., and others, 30th December, 1559, for £600. 13s., with rectory, woods, underwood, and trees. And on the same day Glascock and Blunt sold it to John Gibbons, of London, Esq., L.D. And on the 10th January ensuing Dr. Gibbons sold it to Thomas Gibbons, of New Hall, co. Warwick, esq. In 1586 Thomas Gibbons sold it to John Shilton, of Birmingham, mercer, for £100. In 1626 Robert Shilton, of Birmingham, suffers a recovery of the advowson. In 1662 John Shilton presented William Watson to the rectory. In 1706 John Shilton, of West Bromwich, was patron, and when his son declined to conform, the advowson was purchased from him by John Riland, the incumbent, who had married John Shilton's daughter. The advowson continued in the family of Riland until the commencement of the present century, when it was transferred by an heiress to the family of Bedford.

## MONUMENTS IN SUTTON CHURCH, 1859.

## SOUTH AISLE—THE WALL.

Tablet—The rev. Joseph Mendham, M.A., died November 1, 1856, aged 87. Maria, his wife, died May 27, 1841, aged 68. The rev. Robert Riland Mendham, his only son, died June 15, 1857, aged 59.

Tablet (Latin inscription)—John Barnes, only son of John Barnes, died 1730. Tablet—Thomas Holbeche, died February 12, 1848. Sarah, his wife, died January 21, 1841.

Mural monument—George Sacheverell, esq., of New Hall, died May 18, 1715, in the 83rd year of his age. His first wife, Lucy Danet. His second wife, Maria Wilson.—A long Latin inscription, on a handsome mural monument.

Tablet on pillar—Joseph Duncomb, esq., died 1793, aged 76, descendant of the family of Duncomb, Beds. Elizabeth, his daughter and heiress, wife of S. F. S. Perkins, Esq., of Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, died March 27, 1801, aged 32. An infant son, born and died March 20, 1801.

## THE FLOOR.

Edward Biddulph, eldest son of Simon Biddulph.

Jane Biddulph, eldest daughter of Edward Biddulph, esq., died August 23, 1752, aged 51.

William Dolphin, died December 5, 1727, aged 36.

William died 1732; Scot died 1746; Elizabeth died 1729; Sarah died 1732; another Sarah died 1747—children of Samuel Kempson, gent.

Sarah Frances, died September 25, 1745, aged 24.

John ..... only son of Joshua ..... illegible.

## CHANCEL WALL.

Tablet—The rev. Richard Bisse Riland, A.M., thirty-two years rector of this parish, prebendary in the cathedral of Lichfield, justice of the peace for the county of Warwick, died February 18, 1790, aged 56 years.

Tablet—The Rev. John Riland, M.A., thirty-two years rector of this parish, who died March 13, 1822, in the 86th year of his age.

Tablet on pillar—Katherine Holden, relict of Simon Holden, of Erdington, died in the 82nd year of her age, 1630. Monument erected by her daughter Leigh.

Tablet on pillar—Ann Ash, daughter and co-heiress of William Ash, esq., of Paston, Northamptonshire, born 1731, died 1789.

## CHANCEL FLOOR.

One brass figure—Joseph Bull, of this town, gent., died 1621, about the age of 50.

Illegible.

John Barnes, died 1730, aged 18. Barbara, his mother, died 1747, aged 52.

Henry Stibbs (?), warden, died April 12, 1731, aged 32.

A Woman in brass, a Child on each side—Barbara Eliot, wife of Mr. Roger Eliot, rector, died 1660, in the 80th year of her age.

Charles Biddulph, son of Edward Biddulph, esq., died 1747, aged 17.

Catherine, daughter of Samuel Leigh, gent., died 1695, in her 19th year—almost effaced.

Samuel Stevenson, esq., born at Leicester, high sheriff and justice of the peace for Warwickshire, inhabitant of this town for thirty years. Had one son, who died young. He died 1709, aged 82—scarcely legible; corrected from Thomas's *Dugdale*.

Quite effaced.

## NORTH AISLE—WALL.

A handsome mural monument (Latin inscription)—William Jesson, of Langley, esq., son of sir William Jesson, of the New House, Coventry, knight. And to his wife, Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Henry Pudsey, of Langley, esq. He died November 22, 1725, in his 59th year. She died August 25, 1719, in the 45th year of her age. Also to their son William, who died April 22, 1728, in his 29th year. Also to Eliza, wife of Pudsey Jesson, Esq.

Monument—Bishop Vesey; and above it a tablet to William Harman, and his wife and family, of whom the bishop was the eldest. And to Hugh Harman, the second son, and his family.

Tablets—Three infant children of William Jesson, esq., and Ann, his wife.

Mural monument with two busts—Henry Pudsey, esq., son and heir of George Pudsey, esq.; he married Jane, daughter of Francis Thornhagh, of Fenton, Notts; he died 1677, in the 45th year of his age.

Tablet—William Jesson, esq., of Langley, died 1786, aged 56. His son, William Ash Jesson, esq., died 1776, aged 22 years. Hannah Freeman Pearson, daughter of William Jesson, esq., died February 28, 1825, aged 72. Tablet to their memory erected by Elizabeth Pudsey Lynch, only surviving daughter of William Jesson, esquire.

Tablet—William Jesson Pearson, 14th Light Dragoons, died near Liabon, 1810, at the age of 26 years.

Tablet—Charles Barker, esq., B.C.L., of Trinity College, Oxford, master of the grammar school in this town for 25 years, and an active magistrate for the county of Warwick, who died on the 17th October, 1842, aged 49 years.

Tablet—John Oughton, esq., died 26th April, 1849, aged 74. Mary, relict of the above, died January 9, 1859, aged 79.

Tablet—William Smith, of Hollyfield, born March 6, 1772, died June 25, 1838. Maria, his wife, born June 13, 1775, died May 4, 1830.

Tablet on pillar—John Hacket, esq., of Moor Hall, died March 16, 1810, aged 72. Rev. Richard Hacket, rector of Beckingham, Lincolnshire, died November 7, 1810, aged 72. Sons of Andrew Hacket, esq., of Moxhull.

#### FLOOR OF NORTH AISLE.

Two figures, and five children, in brass, removed.

Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Thomas Cooper, died 1733, aged 67.

Thomas Cooper, gentlemen, died 1739, aged 74.

John, only son of William Saunders, gentleman, died 1698—nearly effaced.

Mr. Thomas Huneyborne, died 1728, aged 53.

Jane, wife of Thomas Huneyborne, died 1732.

#### PATRONS AND INCUMBENTS.

The list of incumbents commences in 1317 :

PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	
King Edward II, in the minority of earl of Warwick .....	Robert Hilary .....	1317
	John de Buckingham.....	1345
	William de Sharnburne.....	1348
	Simon Basset de Sappote ....	1349
	William de Barton .....	1361
Thomas Beauchamp, earl of Warwick ...	Ralph de Friseby.....	1361
	Roger de Tangley .....	1382
	Nicholas Stokes .....	1389
	Ralph Bromley .....	1391
	Thomas Henster .....	1391
	Richard Penne.....	1397
	John de Malverne .....	1397
King Henry IV, in minority of earl of Warwick .....	Richard Penne.....	1401
Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick ...	Ludovico Beelte .....	1412
John Verney, and others, the earl be- ing abroad.....	John Arundell .....	1431
	John Adams .....	1433
Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick ...	Thomas Hill.....	1436
	John Stones .....	1463
	Richard Brackenburgh .....	1469
King Henry VII .....	Edward Scott .....	1499
	Dr. John Taylor .....	1504



PATRONS.		INCUMBENTS.	
King Henry VIII ...	{	Dr. George Heneage .....	1516
		John Burges .....	1528
		Ralph Wendon .....	1527
		William Prest, styled "ghostly father," and curate, in two wills, that of William Taylor .....	1544
Thomas Gibbons .....	{	and that of Richard Veisey .....	1556
		John Fodon .....	1583
		Roger Eliot .....	1564
John Shilton .....	{	Peter Sankey .....	1583
		Roger Eliot .....	1595
Robert Shilton .....	{	John Burges .....	1617
		Antony Burges .....	1635
John Shilton .....	{	James Fleetwood .....	1642
		William Watson .....	1662
		John Riland .....	1689
John Riland .....	{	Richard Riland .....	1720
R. Bisse Riland .....	{	Richard Bisse Riland .....	1758
John Riland .....	{	John Riland .....	1790
William Bedford .....	{	William Riland Bedford .....	1822
W. K. R. Bedford ...	{	Richard Williamson .....	1843
		William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford .....	1850

A terrier of 1612 gives the following inventory of the rectory :

"A parsonage house, with barns, stables, oxhouses, all in good repair (supposed to have been the house and buildings now possessed and occupied by V. Holbeche, esq.). Two outyards and gardens. Six closes appertaining—the Home close, stable close, Keetly or Blab's close, Warningall's or calves' close, Gilbert's croft, the Mettall. Two meadows—one, a little meadow lying between the calves' close and the Blab's close, the other between the Mettall and the town. A dole of meadow in Water Orton, except which all the lands lie together, separated only by one lane leading from the common belonging to Sutton, called the Blabs, towards Middleton.

"Signed, Roger Eliot, rector.  
Zacharrell Massey.  
William Gybons.

"John Keth.  
Old Richard Symond x his mark."

By the above terrier of 1612, which only mentions the quantity of land and building belonging to the rectory, we presume that at that time all tithes were due in kind. From this period, 1612, until 1698, no terrier seems to have been delivered, though four successive rectors had been inducted to the living. Within this interval Charles I had been beheaded, and the country had been long in a state of confusion. Probably certain payments had then been imposed on the rectors, which they were glad to accept rather than run the risk of losing every thing.

In 1701 the rev. J. Riland contracted with W. Smith for the building of a parsonage house 45 feet long in front, and 35 feet deep, and 23 feet high to the top of the wall, &c. The cost was £239. 11s. 3d., which also gave a wall round a front court or garden, standing until 1823.

The avenue of limes was, in after years, planted by the rev. Richard Riland.

In 1705 the rev. J. Riland resisted the raising of his land

tax from the original assessment of £21. 4s. Od., stating that, before some improvements of the (old) parsonage in 1689, it was not worth above £118. 10s. 7d.

Answer to bishop's queries by the rev. R. B. Riland, 1772 :

"The whole number of houses is nearly 370. There are three Roman catholic families—one of a carpenter, and the others of two labourers; they have no place of worship here, nor a priest that I know of.

"There is one family of Quakers, and a meeting house at Wigginshill, seldom used.

"There is one meeting house of Independents within the town of Sutton, duly licensed, to which Methodists resort to the number of eight or ten families."

Some biographical information has been preserved of a few of the incumbents. The earliest is of John Arundel, rector, 1431-2, who was probably the same person who was appointed præcentor of Hereford, 1432-34, having been prebend of Wells from 1427. He was physician to king Henry VI, and after a rapid course of preferment, in which he exhibited a capacity for pluralities fully equal to any modern instance, was consecrated bishop of Chichester, 1459, and died 1477.

John Taylor, rector, 1504, was the eldest of three sons at one birth, in Barton-under-Needwood. His father was a poor man—it is surmised, a tailor. The three children were presented to Henry VII, perhaps when hunting in the forest. He ordered that they should be educated at his charge. It is said they all became doctors, and obtained good preferment. John became doctor of degrees beyond the seas. In 1503 he was rector of Bishop's Hatfield; in the following year ambassador to Burgundy; and, in 1504, rector of Sutton Coldfield. He became clerk of the parliament, 1509; and was installed archdeacon of Derby, 1515, in which year he became prolocutor of the convocation. He became archdeacon of Buckingham, 1516. In 1520 he accompanied king Henry VIII to France, as one of his chaplains. In the same year he was incorporated in the university of Cambridge, on the visit of cardinal Wolsey, and, in 1522, in that of Oxford. He was again an ambassador in 1525; and became master of the rolls 1528. He was also vicar of Halifax.

He was the author of several works, all of which remain in MS. He died 1534. Some of his numerous letters have been printed. He built the church at Barton—it is said, on the site of the cottage in which he was born. Groups of three infant heads are sculptured as ornaments on several parts of the interior, in which a Latin inscription records the principal circumstances here related. He appears to have resigned the living of Sutton on or before his acceptance of the archdeaconry of Buckingham.

John Burges, rector, 1617, was M.D. of the university of Cambridge (of what college is uncertain), and incorporated at the university of Oxford, as doctor of physic, in 1627, receiving, at the same time, a license to read in the public library. He married the daughter of Mr. Thomas Wilcocks (a grave Oxonian divine of queen Elizabeth's time), whose works he reprinted. He was also author of an *Apology to the bishop of Lincoln*; and *The pope's deadly wound resolving the controversies between us and them*; *The lawfulness of kneeling at the Lord's supper*, &c. He died August, 1635, aged 72, and was buried in the chancel of Sutton Coldfield church, in the same vault with his late wife, Dorothy. His daughter, Abigail, who gave the communion plate to the church, married, in 1618-9, the celebrated puritan, Dr. Cornelius Burges.

Antony Burges, M.A., presented to the living 1635—Robert Shilton being patron—was the son of a learned master of a school at Watford, where Dr. Cornelius Burges was minister. He succeeded in the living of Sutton Dr. John Burges, and yet was not related to either of his namesakes. He was of St. John's College, Cambridge, and thence was elected fellow of Emanuel, on account of his learning and his personal character. After his presentation to this living, he continued the conscientious exercise of his ministry until the plundering, and other terrors of civil war, drove him to seek an asylum in Coventry, at that time full of similar refugees. They established a daily morning service and lecture, in which Mr. Burges frequently took part. He was afterwards a member of the Westminster assembly, and distinguished himself by his erudition and piety. Under the Commonwealth he was appointed one of the commissioners for Warwickshire, "for the ejecting of scandalous, ignorant, and insufficient ministers and schoolmasters;" and, notwithstanding the rev. James Fleetwood had superseded him in the Sutton living in 1642, we find in the parish register of 1656 a couple married "before Mr. Antony Burges, minister of Sutton Coldfield parish, in the parish church."

On the Restoration of Charles II, he was unable to agree conscientiously with the new act of conformity, and in 1662 resigned this living, then worth £300 per annum. The bishop of Lichfield, Dr. Hacket, sent for him and other ministers, and endeavoured, but in vain, to induce him to take a different view of the act, afterwards observing of Burges that he was fitted for a professor's place at the univer-

sity. The celebrated Richard Baxter also had the opportunity of recommending him for the bishopric of Hereford. But he retired to Tamworth, as one of the ejected ministers; and there, whilst silenced himself, attended the ministrations of the incumbent of that church, who became his intimate friend. The rev. Samuel Langley resigned Tamworth in 1662, and the rev. Ralph Astle was appointed, but he resigning in 1663, Samuel Langley was restored to the vicarage. Much pain must the spirit of the times have caused the truly pious. The sword is not the means divinely authorized for advancing religious truths. It slays the christian graces of him who unsheaths it in misdirected zeal, and leaves in its ensanguined track fierce earthly passions, and inert latitudinarianism. But a band of true patriots "spake often one to another," and pleaded for their country in aisles consecrated to the devotion of a thousand years. Blessed, whilst earth awaits through the tempests of night the dawn of perfect day, be that sanctuary of Christ's people! May the lamp they have tended never be dimmed! May it shine far into the darkness of the world, and illumine the *via dolorosa* of those who follow their Master unto suffering!

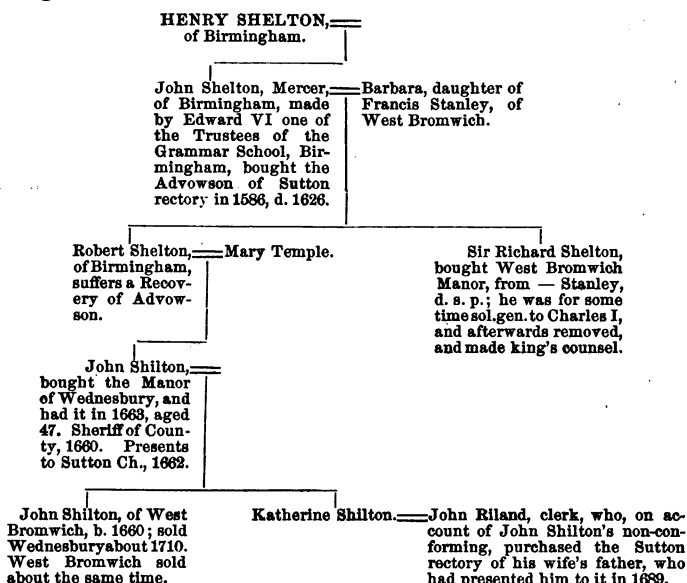
Mr. Burges died at Tamworth, and was buried there in 1664.

Among the voluminous writings of this conscientious man may be specified, *Spiritual Repinings*, folio, 1652; an *Exposition of the 17th Chapter of St. John*, folio, 1656; *The Doctrine of Original Sin*, folio, 1659; *A Practical Commentary on the 1st and 2nd of Corinthians*, 2 vols., folio, 1659; *The true Doctrine of Justification asserted*, quarto, 1648; *Pia dicie Legis*, quarto; with several smaller treatises.

James Fleetwood, rector, 1642, was the seventh son of sir G. Fleetwood, of Bucks, and of the same family as the parliamentarian George Fleetwood, though very different in opinion. He was of King's College, Cambridge, and chaplain to Dr. Wright, bishop of Lichfield, who gave him the living of Prees, and conferred on him a prebend, but the breaking out of the rebellion prevented his being installed. He was forced to quit his vicarage, and follow the fate of king Charles, in whose army he became chaplain to the regiment of the earl of Rivers, and continued in that capacity to the end of the war, although, in 1642, he was appointed rector of Sutton Coldfield. The same year, by his majesty's command, he was made D.D. at Oxford, for the good service he had done the royal cause at Edgehill. Soon after, he was made chaplain to

prince Charles, and tutor to two dukes of Richmond, and to the earls of Lichfield, Kildare, and Stirling. At the Restoration he was the first person sworn chaplain in ordinary to Charles II, and was made provost of King's College. In 1675 he became bishop of Worcester, where he died 1683, aged 80 years.

Of the patrons who, through the medium of Glascock and Blunt, purchased the advowson from the crown in 1559-60, Dr. Gibbons and Thomas Gibbons, of New Hall, were doubtless members of the family at Sutton connected with bishop Vesey. The Shiltons, Sheltons, or Sheldons, who purchased from Thomas Gibbons, in 1586, had been settled in Birmingham.



The first rector and patron of the name of Riland was the son of John Riland, of Over Quinton, co. Gloucester, where the family had been long settled, who became fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1641, and held at the same time the Crown living of Exhall. He was turned out of that rectory in 1647, by a party of soldiers from the parliament force at Warwick, who, at the same time, placed one Moor, a Jersey-comber, in the rectory; and though John Riland spent many years in prosecution of his rights, it was in vain.

Some time after this ejection he met a few of the soldiers on the road, when one of them discharged a pistol at his head; so close that his hair and hat were burned, but, by the good providence of God, the ball missed him. In memory of this deliverance he set apart the day for religious uses during the remainder of his life. His room at the college, which he still maintained, was broken open, and his books and papers were taken away; and there was a man who, with this and similar plunder, set up two sons as booksellers. In the year 1660 Mr. Riland was presented to the rectory of Bilton, in Warwickshire. In 1661 he was promoted to the archdeaconry of Coventry, and about the same time to a prebend at Lichfield; and in 1665 he had the rectory of Birmingham conferred upon him, where he continued until his death, March 3, 1672-3, in the fifty-third year of his age. His son draws up a review of his character thus: He was a very learned, humble, peaceable, and heavenly minded man; of unwearied application in the study of the Scriptures and the primitive fathers in the original languages—making large extracts, all of which were lost in the general ravage: he was constant in his devotions in public and private, and conducted worship with plainness of speech and deportment: there was such strictness in his life and conversation, that he was called in Birmingham, the holy man: he frequently paid from his own purse the sums disputed by two parties, and he laboured to reconcile those who were at variance: when he gave away a dole in the church, he called the poor together to a discourse, which he made suitable to their circumstances, and on such occasions many of the chief inhabitants assembled to avail themselves of his edifying sermon.

At the Restoration the benefices were conferred upon him without his having sought them. There is a tradition that he made a daily prayer that Birmingham might be protected from fire. A monument was placed to his memory in the parish church of St. Martin, Birmingham, and the following is a translation of the inscription, in not very classic Latin:

“SACRED TO THE MEMORY of John Riland (as well as to his dearest wife, Cicely, and only daughter, Maria), archdeacon of Coventry, and minister of the parish, as well as its highest ornament, who corrected unbelief and fanaticism and all the evils of this depraved age, not so much by his writings and sermons, although with spirit in these too, as by the constant and unbending course of an unblameable life.

“Having in youth completed an exemplary pupilage at Magdalen College, Oxford, he was speedily elected a fellow of that society, and, after a life spent in various places and regions, suffering from the ingratitude of the times, here he settled at last, and here he died in the 53rd year of his age, March 3rd, in the year of our Lord 1672.”

Riland arms: sable, a chevron between three martlets argent.

For pedigree of the Riland family see Appendix, No. 3.

The last of the name of Riland who held the Sutton rectory was John, only brother of Richard Bisse Riland. He became curate to his brother in 1759; but his religious impressions deepening, and leading him to seek the influence of the rev. Henry Venn, whose ministry in Yorkshire had excited much notice, he entered on the curacy of Huddersfield. There he married Miss Hudson, and a christian friendship was cemented between the families of Venn and Riland, as depicted in the valuable memoir of Mr. Venn. A lady who esteemed the preaching of Mr. Riland, built for him St. Mary's church, in Birmingham, where he had an attentive congregation for some years, until, in 1790 the death of his brother, who had bequeathed to him a life interest in the Sutton rectory, caused him to remove to Sutton. In this extensive parish he ceased not to exercise diligent pastoral care to the hour of his sudden decease, which occurred in March, 1822, in his 86th year, upon his return home from his usual parochial visiting.

Over his grave, in the chancel of Sutton church, is a tablet to his memory, the inscription concluding with two appropriate verses from Scripture—I Corinthians ii, 1, 2; I Thessalonians ix, 14.

Mr. Riland was assisted in the parochial charge by his son-in-law, the rev. Joseph Mendham, M.A., of St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, who continued in the curacy of Sutton from 1795 to 1825.

In 1835, when the district church at Hill was built, he was presented to it by the Rev. W. R. Bedford, rector of the parish, but after a few years, increasing infirmities of health induced him to resign it.

Mr. Mendham was a scholar of deep research in biblical and ecclesiastical learning: and his attention having been drawn to the points of difference between Protestant and Romish doctrines, he exerted the utmost diligence in making himself thoroughly acquainted with the controversy. For this purpose he acquired a knowledge of European languages, and by means of correspondence, explored foreign libraries.

His works are evidences of his exactness and industry. *The Literary Policy of the Church of Rome* was written after great research among authorities of the papal hierarchy; and the *Memoirs of the Council of Trent* were compiled from a fortunate acquisition and careful study of 70 folio volumes of

MSS. in the Spanish tongue. He was a man of acute sensibility, with a high appreciation of the fine arts; and in music, in which he had some skill, his taste was scientific. His constitutional reserve, and his steady application, even to the last hour of his life, to exercises which conscience suggested, led him to a secluded life, whilst a strong faith and deep piety kept him cheerfully expectant of the "rest which remaineth," and to which he was suddenly called in his 83rd year.

His only son, the rev. Robert Mendham, M.A., of Wadham College, Oxford, was the literary companion of his declining years, and assisted his father in his constant and munificent efforts to relieve distress. His decease followed that of his father within a few months.

The works published by the rev. Joseph Mendham are chiefly as follows:

Lectures on the Lord's Prayer .....	1803.
Clavis Apostolica .....	1821.
The Literary Policy of the Church of Rome .....	1830.
Life and Pontificate of Pius V .....	1832.
Index Librorum Prohibitorum a Sexta V Papa .....	1835.
The Spiritual Venality; or Taxe of the Church of Rome .....	1836.
The Venal Indulgences and Pardons of the Church of Rome .....	1839.
Acta Cornelli Tridentini Paleotto .....	1842.
The Tenth General Council, the Second of Nicæa .....	
Additions to Minor Worthies .....	1848.

He supplied a series of papers to the *Protestant Journal*, entitled "Papal Bonds," and several of a valuable character, as reviews.

## District Churches.

The increase of population has occasioned the erection of three district churches, within the last thirty-five years.

### HILL CHURCH.

In December, 1835, the chapel of St. James, at Mere Green, was consecrated by the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (Ryder), being almost the last public act of his episcopate, and the last visit of a bishop of Lichfield to Sutton. The edifice, of brick and stucco, presents no features of architectural interest, though the interior, especially since the restoration in 1855 is decent and commodious. In 1852, during the incumbency of the late rev. S. C. Saxton, a district was assigned to this church, the boundary line of which commences at the Milking Gate, and, following the fences of Sutton and Four Oaks Parks to Doebank, crosses the Lichfield turnpike road at the pit opposite to Cooper's Coppice, and



proceeding from thence by the side of the wood to the lodge at Moor Hall, skirts the fence of Moor Hall Park, until it meets the Tamworth road, by which it proceeds to the boundary of the parish, at Collett's Brook. The site of the church was given by Francis Beynon Hackett, esq., and the parsonage and endowment were added by the late rev. W. R. Bedford, rector of the parish. The cost of building the church and of the restoration in 1855 was defrayed by private subscriptions.

### WALMLEY CHURCH.

Miss Lucy Riland, daughter of the late rev. John Riland, rector, wishing to contribute £1000 towards the endowment of a church at Walmley, on certain conditions as to site and accommodation, subscriptions amounting to about £4,000 were raised in addition. The corporation provided land for the sites of the church and parsonage, and sittings for school children. The parsonage-house was built in 1843, and the church was consecrated in 1845. It contains upwards of 400 sittings, 257 being free, and 96 appropriated to school children.

The patronage was vested in the rev. John Riland and his sister, Lucy Riland, during their lives, and afterwards in the rector of the parish. The rev. Gilbert William Robinson, M.A., of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, the present minister, was appointed the first incumbent.

The district of Walmley was legally assigned, in 1846, with an area of 3,000 acres, the boundary of which, from the end of Bell Lane, at the south-west border of the parish, takes a zig-zag line to New Hall Mill; from thence, still across fields, to the Warren House, and keeping about 100 yards to the north of the road from that point to Holly Lane, reaches the boundary of the parish again at Langley Brook. The endowment of the church has been augmented by the rector and by Joseph Webster, esq., of Penns, who, as residing in the immediate neighbourhood, took a prominent part in the work, and a very liberal share in the subscription and expenses.

Within the chancel are mural monuments:

To Joseph Webster, Esq., formerly of Penns, J. P. for the Co. of Warwick, Stafford, and Derby; one of the principal founders of this church, died July 7, 1856, aged 73. And Maria Mary his wife, daughter of Sir Peter Payne, Bart. She died March 4th, 1848, aged 56.

To Frances Sharpe Webster, their fourth daughter. She died July 8th, 1843, in her 17th year.

To Anna Maria, wife of Baron Dickenson Webster, Esq., of Penns, and daughter of Stanley Pipe Wolferstan, Esq. She died July 20, 1848, in the 28th year of her age. Also Baron, their infant child, died March 21, 1845, aged 7 weeks.

A richly coloured east window has also been placed to the memory of Joseph Webster, esq.

### BOLDMERE CHURCH.

The church of St. Michael, Boldmere, consecrated by the bishop of Worcester, September 29, 1857, stands upon the ridge of rising ground overlooking Boldmere Lake. The district assigned to it commences at Bell Lane, and following the boundary of Walmley district to New Hall Mill, returns towards the Birmingham road, by the lane leading to Wild Green. Its boundary, however, remains one field's distance on the east of the road until it reaches Maney, where, crossing the turnpike road, it continues up the lane leading to the Driffold, and from thence to Windley Pool, and becomes identical with the bounds of the Park.

The church, of Rushall limestone, with Bath and Hollington dressings, has been erected as a portion only of a larger design; nave and chancel being finished, and the pillars and arches for aisles constructed and embedded in the walls. The tower at the north-west corner of the present church, will be eventually ornamented with a spire, a legacy having been bequeathed for that purpose by the late rev. R. R. Mendham. The cost of the building was defrayed from private subscriptions and other sources, the deficiency being made up by the present rector, who also provided an endowment for the incumbency. The cost of erection of the parsonage-house was borne by the rector and the rev. E. H. Kittoe, B.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, the first incumbent.

The following charitable bequests are on benefaction tables in the parish church:

John Wilkins, esq., in 1707 gave Sharrat field in Hill to provide bibles and religious books for poor persons and children catechised in church.

In accordance with the wish of Thomas Jesson, jun., deceased, 1707, lands at Hill were placed in trust for the apprenticing poor boys whose parents do not receive parochial relief, and for distribution of bread on St. Thomas's Day.

John Addyes, esq., who died 1762, gave a rent of £5 to be applied in apprenticing boys, and distributing bread. John Hackett, esq., augmented the last gift of his uncle, John Addyes, by £5 rent to be applied in a similar way.

Valens Sacheverell gave a rent of £1 to the poor on St. Thomas's Day.

Mr. Raphael Sedgwick, of Wild Green, 1665, gave £5; Mr. Nicholas Dolphin £20; Mrs. Mary Jenks, 1750, £50; William Blakesley, £5: the interest of which sums is distributed on St. Thomas's Day.

George Sacheverell, esq., 1715, gave a rent of £5 to poor widows—on February 2, and April 23.

Mr. Thomas Wheele, 1627, gave the Railed Close in Maney; the rent to be distributed to the poor.

Mr. Thomas Cooper, 1637, gave land in Little Sutton quarter; the rent to be distributed to the poor.

Mrs. Jesson of Langley left £10. The produce of the three last charities is given away on Good Friday.

Mrs. Sarah Dreny, 1839, gave a rent of £1 to widows on 14th January.

Three bequests have been lost, of Mrs. Jacob, Nicholas Birch, and Eliza : Kempson.

## Four Oaks Park.

Lands here possessed by the Pudsey family were, in 1696, settled as part of the share of Elizabeth, eldest daughter and co-heiress of George Pudsey, of Langley Hall, esq. She had married Henry, third lord ffolliott, of Lickhill; and he, determining to settle here, employed sir William Wilson as architect of the mansion, to be called by the name of Four Oaks. This was substantially the same as the existing hall. In the fashion of the times, it had a court in front—eastward, on each side of which were offices. The surrounding estate was small, producing a rental of not more than £32 per annum; but the neighbourhood of Sutton Park doubtless induced the choice of this spot for a residence, rather than one at Wishaw, the much larger estate in his wife's portion. The genealogy of Pudsey will be found under Langley.

The family of ffolliott claims descent from Rolla the Dane, who, in 911, wrung from Charles the Simple the cession of a maritime province, henceforward to bear the name of Normandy, as the territory subdued by himself and his followers; and there he became its first duke. He also married Gisele, daughter of the French king, and by her had a son, ffolliott, whose descendant, Harlovin, came into England with William the Conqueror, and became lord of Fenwick and ffolliott's fee, co. York.

Of this family was Gilbert ffolliott, bishop of Hereford 1148, translated to London 1163—this being the first instance of translation from one bishopric to another in English ecclesiastical history. He was distinguished for supporting Henry II in his struggle against Becket.

Robert ffolliott was bishop of Hereford in 1174, and Hugh ffolliott was bishop of Hereford in 1219.

Peter, bishop of St. David's, 1176, is supposed by Ashmole to have been a ffolliott.

At a later period a member of the family, Thomas ffolliott, of Pirton Court, co. Worcester, esq., had two sons—John, knighted by queen Elizabeth, and Henry, who, in 1599, commanded a regiment of foot with success under the earl of

Ormand at Kilkenny; and in 1601, at the head of his regiment, had a large share in the victory of Kinsale, under the lord deputy Montjoy. For these services he was made knight banneret, and afterwards a peer of Ireland, by the title of baron of Ballyshannon, with a grant of large royalties and estates there. He was also made president of the north of Ireland. He died 1680.

Thomas, second lord ffolliott, commanded a company of foot, in the service of Charles I, in 1641; and a regiment in 1645; and was made governor of Londonderry. He died at Ferny Hall, co. Salop, 1696, aged 89.

Henry, his only son, third lord ffolliott, inherited the estates of his father and grandfather, and married Elizabeth Pudsey, by whom he had a daughter, and only child, Rebecca, who died in her fourteenth year, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Lady ffolliott was born 1667, and died about the year 1742; but the date, and the place of her interment have not been discovered for the present history. Lord ffolliott died 1716, in the 54th year of his age, and was buried in the parish church of Sutton Coldfield, perhaps in the Pudsey vault. There was it is stated, in family papers, a monument to his memory, but there is not any trace of it now in the church. His sister Ann was interred in this church, 1696. She married John Soley, esq.; and their only child, Rebecca, married her cousin, Arthur Lugg, esq., great-grandson of sir John ffolliott, of Pirton Court. He died 1726, in the 56th year of his age, and was also buried in Sutton church, where there was a monument to his memory. These three monuments or tombstones cannot now be traced.

The heirs of lord ffolliott were three sisters and a niece. By grant and purchase, colonel, afterwards general, ffolliott (the cousin of lord ffolliott, and inheritor of his Irish estates) became possessed of Four Oaks and other portions of the English property, subject to a mortgage. He died February 26th, 1762. His representative and heir is John ffolliott, esq., of Hollybrook House, co. Sligo, and Lickhill Hall, co. Worcester.

About the year 1744, the house and outbuildings of Four Oaks were valued at £1,795, and the rent of the land, let to three tenants, was £32. 14s. 11d. The chief rent to the warden of Sutton Coldfield for land at Four Oaks was, at the same time, 9s. 8d., which, at 2d. per acre, shews the original quantity inclosed, after the manor was in the hands of the corporation, to have been 58 acres.

This work is indebted to the rev. Francis ffolliott, rector of Wishaw, for interesting family records.

Simon Luttrell, esq., became the purchaser of the estate and hall at Four Oaks. It is stated in a corporation document (1757) that Mr. Luttrell, wishing to pull down the hall and build a new one, obtained the sanction of the corporation and the consent of the inhabitants of the parish (freeholders, tenants, and cottagers signing a petition) to have an act of parliament for inclosing and rendering freehold, to Luttrell, 48 acres of the park, to add to the west and south of Four Oaks grounds, for the annual rent of £12 (which is still paid). It appears that he removed only the front court and outbuildings, raised the four turrets and the parapet, altered the flight of steps on the east front, and added pilasters to that face of the house. The original design is shewn in an engraving of Four Oaks Hall, dedicated to lady ffolliott, then a widow. In 1768 he was created baron Irnham, and in 1780 viscount Carhampton, and in 1785 earl Carhampton. [See Peerage.] An anecdote has been preserved of one of his daughters, illustrative of country fashions past, on the occasion of the Christmas ball at Tamworth. The sir Robert Lawley of that period, father of the last sir Robert Lawley, rode to it, carrying behind him, on a pillion, the beautiful Anne Luttrell, her hoop being adjusted, for convenience of transport, as a parapet before her face. She married first, Christopher Horton, of Catton hall, esq., and secondly, his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, brother of George the III. Lord Irnham's ancestor came with the Conqueror into England, and was placed on the roll of Battle Abbey. To one of the family king John granted the castle and estate of Luttrell town in Ireland.

Lord Irnham seriously injured his purse by buying up all the estates on sale in this neighbourhood; and he sold Four Oaks in 1778 to the rev. Thomas Gresley, D.D., who enjoyed it but for a short period. His great-grandson, the present sir Thomas Gresley, has succeeded to the baronetcy, created 1611. The pedigree of this ancient family is traced to Malahucius, uncle of Rollo, first duke of Normandy, two of whose descendants, Robert and his brother Nigel, attended William the Conqueror to England, and Nigel obtained Drachelawe in Derbyshire, and many other manors. Thus by a curious coincidence the Gothic cousins, ffolliott and Gresley, after about nine hundred years separation from the parent roof, came successively into the same homestead at Four Oaks; but the periods of their sojourn did not synchronize with more exactness than the arrivals of the mutually pursuing and unhappy Evangeline and her *affiancé*.

After the death of Dr. Gresley, Four Oaks was sold to Hugh Bateman, esq., whose ancestors had been settled for some generations at Harlington, co. Derby. He married Temperance, daughter of Thomas Gisborne, of Yoxall Lodge, esq., and was created a baronet in 1806. [See Baronetage.] His elder daughter and co-heiress carried the baronetcy into the family of Scott, of Great Barr, when she married Edward Dolman Scott, esq., eldest son of sir Joseph Scott, bart.

In 1792, sir Hugh Bateman sold Four Oaks to Edmund Cradock Hartopp, esq., who was created baronet in 1796. [See Baronetage.] He married Anne, the only daughter and heir of Joseph Hurlock, esq., governor of Bencoolen, and one of the directors of the East India Company: and she was sole lineal descendant and heiress of sir John Hartopp, bart., who died in 1762, being fourth and last baronet of the creation, 1619. In the family of sir John Hartopp, the third baronet, lived the pious and learned Dr. Isaac Watts, as tutor, for two years from 1696: and in this christian society enjoyed whatever was most congenial with his own feelings in friendship and in devotion.

To increase the domain around Four Oaks Hall, sir Edmund Hartopp effected, in 1826, an exchange of land with the corporation, by which he obtained out of the park 63 acres adjacent to Four Oaks, including the wood called Ladywood, and gave up in return 97 acres of pasture, some of which are on the north side of Powell's Pool; and other portions on either side the present entrance of the park from the town, all of which were thrown open and added to the park; to which, also, he made and gave the present and first road conducting to it from the town.\*

## New Hall.

This, being a member of Sutton, was, about the beginning of Edward III's time, possessed by one William de Sutton, of Warwick; which William, or his predecessors, had it (doubtless) from one of the earls of Warwick, and granted it to one Robert de Sutton, a merchant of Coventry, who passed it, in 13 Edward III, unto Thomas de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, and sir John Lizours, of Fledborough, in the county of Nottingham, knight, to the behoof of the said sir John and

\* It is gratifying to state that to the obliging interest taken in the publication of this history of Sutton, by sir William Edmund Cradock Hartopp, the present baronet, and lady Hartopp, is principally due the favourable attention with which the announcement of this work has been received.

his heirs: for the next year following the said earl released all his right therein accordingly; in which release it is termed one messuage called New Hall. After this, till 15 Henry VI, there appears no mention of it, but then the homage and a court baron, held at Sutton, shewed that sir Richard Stanhope, knight, died seized of it by the name of the manor of New Hall, held of the earl of Warwick by the service, 10s. 10d. per annum, a heriot being then seized by the bailiff; upon which James Stanhope, son and heir to sir Richard, exhibited a deed, by which it appeared that his father had in his lifetime enfeoffed sir Thomas Aston, knight, Nicholas Gonshall, esq., and others, in this manor and other lands, and therefore required a discharge from the heriot. In 20 Henry VI, Katherine, widow of William Basset, of Fledborough, demised it to William Deping, of Sutton, and Richard Ley, of Maney, for twenty-one years, by the name of—*Dominium vocatum*—New Hall.

It appears to have been possessed by Thomas Gibbons in 1559, when he was styled of New Hall, on his purchasing the advowson of Sutton church, which he retained until the year 1586.

Before the end of Elizabeth's reign New Hall was bought by Henry Sacheverell, esq., of Morley and Callow, co. Derby, of an ancient family in that county. He gave Callow and New Hall to Valens Sacheverell. The latter came here to reside; and the registration of his children in Sutton church commences in 1628. His daughter Anne married Charles Chadwick, who also settled at Sutton, where he acted as magistrate. George, the eldest son of Valens Sacheverell, was in the commission for the peace. In 1709 he was sheriff for Derbyshire, but was represented by his nephew, Charles Chadwick, at the assizes in Derby, when his chaplain, the celebrated Dr. Henry Sacheverell, preached at All Saints' church, one of the sermons which drew on himself the impeachment of parliament. On his descending from the pulpit Mr. Chadwick exclaimed, "You'll be at Rome before you are aware, doctor," intimating that he would be compelled to follow the deposed king. This sermon, and one preached in London, were interpreted as condemnatory of the late revolution, which had secured the Protestant succession, yet such was the versatility of popular feeling, that, although the House of Commons prosecuted him with great vigour, the public expressions in his favour prevented a heavier judgment than the prohibition against the doctor's preaching during

three years, and the committal of his two sermons to a bonfire by the common hangman. The immediate ancestors of Dr. Sacheverell were of Dorsetshire, and, as his great-grandfather wrote his name Cheverell, it is probable that he was descended from the Cheverells of Wiltshire. His grandfather was Presbyterian minister of Wincanton, and many of his family were Puritans. His father died minister of St. Peter's church, in Marlborough, and Henry was adopted and educated by Mr. Edward Hearst, an apothecary, and he became fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. Bishop Burnet aided his widowed mother. He was latterly desirous of being considered one of the Derbyshire Sacheverells, but his relationship is not made out. However, George Sacheverell bequeathed to him a moiety of the Callow estate in 1715, when he left the other moiety, containing the hall and demesne, and the estate of New Hall, to his great nephew, Charles Chadwick, who took the name of Sacheverell. He came to New Hall in 1729, and died here in 1779, leaving his sister, Dorothy Chadwick, his heir. In 1784 her will gave to her relative, Ralph Floyer, esq., of Hints, a life interest in the Sacheverell estates of Callow and New Hall, and to her nephew, Charles Chadwick, his ancestral property at Ridware, both equally great-grandsons of Charles Chadwick and his wife Anne Sacheverell; but on the death of Ralph Floyer, without issue, in 1793, the same will entailed Callow and New Hall on the above-named nephew, Charles Chadwick, with whose descendants they have since remained.

The family of Chadwick claims descent from an ancient one in Lancashire, as also from the early lords of Malvesyn Ridware. Through how many generations their possessions here and in the north, have been transmitted, will be seen in the following history.

A Malvesyn appears on the roll of Battle Abbey; the name was derived from the Norman castle, which had been rendered a dangerous neighbour to an enemy. So, when William II could not take Bamfborough, he built a castle before it, which he called Malveisin. Tradition states that the Norman knight was rewarded by the grant of this Ridware, held under the earls of Shrewsbury by the service of bearing arms against the Welsh. Robert Malveisin, of Colton, contemporary with Willelmo, of Ridware, was engaged in the conquest of Ireland, under Henry II, and received grants there, to which were witnesses three folliotts, a Haket, and others. Sir Henry, the seventh in descent, was a Crusader, and, under Edward I,



engaged in the war with Scotland. Sir Robert was, in the 19th Edward II, steward of the forest of Cannock. Under sir Robert, the tenth in descent, there was ill-will between the people of the manors north and south of the Trent respecting rights of fishery; and in 1 Henry IV there was a violent affray, when Malveisin's adherents burned the mill at Handsacre Bridge, and one of Handsacre's people was slain in the assault. The lords of the two manors were on different sides in the Civil Wars; and when it was rumoured that the earl of Northumberland had taken up arms in support of the deposed Richard II, Malveisin rode forth, with six or seven vassals, in the cause of king Henry IV. Handsacre, with the same number of retainers, was proceeding to join Percy in the opposite interest, when the two rivals met in a meadow above the high-bridge at Malvesyn Ridware, and rushed furiously into combat. Handsacre was killed, and Malveisin marched on to Shrewsbury; but there he was himself slain in the battle which ensued, 22 July, 1403.

He left no son, and Margaret his youngest daughter married the son of the Handsacre whom her own father had slain: Handsacre was descended from kings of Scotland. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married, secondly, sir John Cawarden, knight; and their son, sir John Cawarden, succeeded to Malvesyn Ridware. David Cawarden, the sixteenth in descent, married a descendant of William Handsacre and Margaret Malveysin. Their son Thomas left four daughters, between whom the manor was divided. Joyce married John Chadwick, esq., 1594, who, by purchase, obtained most of the other three shares of the manor and neighbouring estates.

His son and heir, Lewis Chadwick, nineteenth in descent, took up arms in the Civil Wars, in the service of the parliament, and was lieutenant colonel of their horse, at the battle and taking of Stafford, 1642, of which place he was made governor, and was president of the committee of sequestration there, and one who, with Mr. Pudsey, signed the order for the demolition of the castle. In January, 1643, colonel Leigh and lieutenant-colonel Chadwick paid one shilling each for departing from the committee without leave. In 1644 he was on the committee at Stafford, and was appointed, for the parliament, governor of Caverswall castle, and afterwards commander at Biddulph house; but at length, disgusted by his party, he resigned. In later years he purchased from lord Carlisle the island of St. Lucia, West Indies. He left one daughter, Katherine, his heir. She married a kinsman, John

Chadwicke, esq., of Healey Hall, near Rochdale, who was of the ancient family, Chadwicke of Chadwicke, in the same manor, and also heir by descent of John de Heley, time of Henry III. He joined his father-in-law in the Civil Wars, but resigned his commission, being lieutenant-colonel, when general Fairfax quitted that army; and in 1661 he gave £5 voluntary aid to Charles II, and afterwards contributed to a foot soldier, and a corslet for the king's service. Katherine, his widow, married another kinsman, Jonathan Chadwick of Chadwick, esq.; and afterwards a third husband. Her eldest son Charles, the twenty-first in descent, succeeded to Healey Hall and Malvesyn Ridware; and, in 1665, married Anne, daughter of Valens Sacheverell, esq., of Callow, in Derbyshire, and New Hall, in Sutton Coldfield. He fixed his residence at Sutton, where he acted as magistrate, with his brother-in-law, George Sacheverell, esq.; yet, notwithstanding this Jacobite connection, he remained a warm advocate of king William. His daughter Katherine married, in 1698, Ralph Floyer, esq., of Hints; and his son Charles married the daughter of sir Thomas Dolman, knight; and their son Charles succeeded his great-uncle, George Sacheverell, esq., at New Hall, in 1715, and went there to reside in 1729, and assumed the name and arms of Sacheverell. He died 1779, without issue. His heir was his sister Dorothy, who died, unmarried, in 1784, having suffered from an accident by fire at Hints. Charles Chadwick, the father, was succeeded at Healey, in 1756, by his youngest son John, who left Charles his son and heir, also the heir of his aunt Dorothy Chadwick. Charles died in 1829; and his only son, Hugo Malvesyn Chadwick, born 1793, was the twenty-fifth in descent; he, dying in 1854, left his only son, John de Heley Chadwick, esq., then a minor, the representative of the families and the inheritor of the estates of Malveysin Ridware, Healey, Callow, and New Hall.

The ancient edifice of New Hall, enclosed within a well preserved moat, was built about the year 1200, rebuilt and called New Hall, in 1360, enlarged in 1590, and had a tower and other additions built by Mr. Chadwick in 1796, the whole being in appropriate style, and having much picturesque effect.

Arms of Chadwick: gules, an inescutcheon within an orle of martlets argent; crest, a lily.

### Langley,

parish of Sutton, from *long leag*, an open field, was originally a member of Sutton, as, in 37 Henry III.—[1252-3]—Walter

de Bereford did grant unto Walter, his son, fifty acres of land lying in Lonkeleye, Blackmore, and Brookhurst, within the territory of Sutton; so that it may be concluded that Walter, or his ancestors, had it from the earls of Warwick, as, by a multitude of inquisitions, it appears to have been of their fee. In 23 and 36 Henry III this Walter brought an assize of *Novel Disseisin* against Nicholas L'Isle for certain common pastures at Moxhull. To whom succeeded Walter, his son and heir; and to him Osbert de Bereford, who, in 2 Edward I—[1274]—was constituted sheriff of this county and Leicestershire, and in the next year a commissioner for levying a fifteenth, and in 8 Edward I sheriff again of these counties. And to him succeeded William, his brother, whose descendants continued to possess this Langley and lands in Wishaw, Sutton, Curdworth, Minworth, Middleton, and Wigginshill, in this county, and Stapleford, in Leicestershire.

This William was a knight in 16 Edward I, and being learned in the law, he had, in 2 Edward II, the chief-justiceship of the common pleas; but, about three years after this appointment, there was a high complaint made against him to the king by John de Someri (a great baron at Dudley) for words of defamation, viz., that he, Someri, did so domineer in Staffordshire that no man could enjoy the benefit of the law or reason, taking upon him more authority than a king; as also that it was no abiding for any thereabouts, unless they did bribe him in contributing largely towards the building of his castle at Dudley; and moreover that the said John de Someri did use to beset men's houses in that country, threatening to murder them except they gave him his demands. Whereupon the king issued a commission to Allan Zouch and William Trussell to inquire thereof, and, in case the words were proved, then to find out whether the before-specified John were really guilty of these misdemeanours.

How William de Bereford answered this business does not appear, but in 8 Edward II—[1314]—he was one of the justices of assize in this county; so also in 13 Edward II, and in that year a benefactor to the canons at Kenilworth, by granting to them sixty acres of land, and two acres of meadow, lying in Radford Similie. He died 20 Edward II—[1326]—leaving Edmund, his son and heir, twenty-eight years of age, who did his homage the same year, and had livery of his lands; which Edmund, in 1 Edward III—[1273]—obtained license from the king to fortify his manor house here at Langley with a wall of lime and stone, and to

embattle it. In that record the king calls him *delectus clericus noster*; yet he was then a knight, for in a release, bearing date at Chaucombe the same year (whereby Henry de Bereford, parson of the church of Corson, gave up unto him all his right in this manor, as also in Wishaw), he is styled a knight. The sealing of this release was somewhat remarkable: "In testimony of which," saith the parson, "I place my seal: and because my seal is unknown to many, I have procured the seal of Roger Hillary, my nephew, to be affixed to it." Whereunto were witnesses sir Gilbert de Elsefield, sir Simon de Bereford, sir Miles de Beauchamp, sir James de Audley, and sir John de Broughton, knight, and Roger Hillari, John Dimock, and others.

Seals were anciently in great regard, few persons being able to write their signatures with ease or legibly. King Edward the Confessor was the first in England who put seal to his charters, in imitation of the Normans, amongst whom he had been educated; but there is no proof that any subject made use of them until after the Conquest.

Our kings and great persons at first used their own portraits, or supposed resemblances, in the impression of their seals. Military men always on horseback, in the same kind of armour that they wore, mail for the most part, with a shield on the left arm, and in the right hand a naked sword. When, after the time of Richard I, it was held an honour for those whose ancestors had served in the crusades, to retain their badges on their shields, and also painted behind and before on their surcoats of silk, worn over the mail, the custom began of engraving the arms on the seals, and the figure on horseback was discontinued. The seal establishes the validity of a deed, and banishment was the punishment of counterfeiting a seal. When a man accidentally lost a seal, it was publicly declared, lest any one should make an unfair use of it.

Sir Edmund de Bereford, on his death, 28 Edward III—[1354]—bequeathed liberal legacies to his poor tenants at Wishaw, Wigginhill, Maney, Sutton, and other places, leaving John, his son, possessed of most of his lands by special entail, as not legitimate, who, dying in Gascony, left Baldwin, his brother and heir, aged 24. He was a knight, and in 1 Richard II was constituted, by the king's half-brother, Thomas de Holland, chief guardian of all the forests on this side Trent, his lieutenant in that office. In years following he received other grants and offices, amongst them free warren

in his demesne land in Wishaw. He was a powerful favourite with Richard II, and had, from the tumultuous parliament held in 2 Richard II, the character of an evil counsellor, and, with other great men, was expelled from the court. The king had good cause for his partiality towards him. He had been servant to his father, the Black Prince, retained for peace as well as for war during life, with an annuity of £40 per annum out of the lordship of Coventry, which was confirmed to him by Richard II. This sir Baldwin had a bear for his crest, in allusion to his name, a common practice in those days. His estates passed to his relative, John Hore; and about the beginning of Henry the Seventh's time they descended to the Pudseys; for Edith Hore, cousin and heir of the last Gilbert Hore, residing at her manor of Ellesfield, near Oxford, "having a special liking to Rowland Pudsey, a younger son of Henry Pudsey, esq., of an ancient family at Barford and Bolton, county York, then a student at Oxford, and a gentleman much accomplished, took him as her husband," and their posterity continued in possession of Langley.

In the direct descent, Robert Pudsey married Eleanor Harman, daughter of Hugh Harman, and niece of bishop Vesey. Robert was warden of Sutton in 1543 and 1554. His son, George Pudsey, married for his second wife Margaret, daughter of William Gibbons, probably great-great-niece of the bishop. A William Gibbons was warden in 1592; and George Pudsey in 1582 and 1604. One of the family, Thomas (great-grandson of Robert, through his younger son, Thomas, of Seisdon), was in the parliament army in the time of Charles I, and one on the committee that ordered the demolition of Stafford castle, December 22, 1643.

On the death of Henry Pudsey, esq., 1677, his two surviving daughters became his co-heiresses. Elizabeth, the elder, married lord folliott, and Anne, the younger, married, 1696, William Jesson, esq., son of William Jesson, knight, of New House, near Coventry. The estates were in that year parted between the sisters. They were as follows: The manors of Langley and Wishaw, with the appurtenances, 20 messuages, 6 cottages, 26 gardens, 26 orchards, 1 dove-house, 1 windmill, 1 watermill, 500 acres of land, 140 acres of meadow, 250 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 20 acres of furze and heath, 7—\* rent, and common of pasture for all cattle, and the appurtenances in Langley, Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield, Little Sutton, Wigginshill, Greaves, Whitacre, Minworth, Moxhull,

\* Denomination of money not known.

Curdworth, Lea Marston, and Kingsbury, and the advowson of the parish church of Wishaw. Lady folliott took the manor of Wishaw, and the lands, at Sutton, afterwards known as Four Oaks. Mrs. Jesson took Langley Hall; and they held the advowson of Wishaw church by alternate presentation, which continues in the representatives of the two families, Charles Holt Bracebridge, esq., being the representative of the Jessons.

Over the Pudsey vault on the wall of the north aisle is a monument on which are placed two marble busts; the inscription records the deaths of Henry Pudsey, esq., son and heir of George Pudsey, of Langley; and of Anne his wife, daughter of Paul Risley, esq., of Chetwood, co. Bucks., who married Jane, second daughter of Francis Thornhagh, esq., of Fenton, Notts. Their five children were Elizabeth, Jane, Henry, Anne, and Frances, of whom Elizabeth, Anne, and Frances survived them. He died March 29, 1677, in the 45th year of his age. Jane Pudsey, his relict, erected this monument.

Jane, the widow of Henry Pudsey, made a second marriage with Mr. William Wilson. He was born in Leicester, and was a builder and architect. After his marriage he resided at Sutton, and continued this business. His wife's influence obtained knighthood for him in 1681. In 1694, a fire at Warwick having destroyed the greater part of St. Mary's church, sir William Wilson was selected by the crown commissioners to re-construct it. And to him must be attributed the censure and the praise which the fine proportions but incongruous detail of this singular building have so frequently and so loudly called forth. He was employed by lord folliott to build Four Oaks Hall. He also built Nottingham Castle; and, for his own residence, the house in Sutton which is possessed and occupied by William Steele Perkins, esq.; and he was the sculptor of the statue of Charles II, at the west front of Lichfield cathedral. He died in 1710, in his 70th year, but was not allowed sepulture in the Pudsey vault within the church, and was buried near it outside, where, upon the north wall, a mural monument to his memory was placed by his nephew, Mr. John Barnes. Its inscription is now nearly effaced.

A handsome monument at the east end of the north aisle records, in a long Latin inscription, the deaths of William Jesson, of Langley, esq., only child and heir of William Jesson, knight, of New House, near, Coventry; and of Anne his wife, daughter and heiress of Henry Pudsey, of Langley, esq., to whom, in the possession of Langley, his son-in-law succeeded. She left seven children. Pudsey, William, Robert, Frances, Alexander, George and Anne (she had had eight sons, but Henry died 1705). She died 25th August, 1719, aged 45. He died 22nd of November, 1725, aged 59. Eliza wife of Pudsey Jesson, daughter and co-heiress of John Freeman, late of Wellingborough, esq., had two children, William and Anne; and died 23th March, 1728, aged 28.

Anne, the only daughter of Pudsey Jesson, married Charles

Holte, esq., who afterwards succeeded his brother, sir Lister Holte, in the baronetcy, and was the last of the name. He resided chiefly at Erdington Hall. His only daughter and heiress married Abraham Bracebridge, esq., of Atherstone, whose son and heir, Charles Holte Bracebridge, esq., represents the ancient family that for many ages possessed Langley Hall. To him Sutton owes some gratitude: for when, in an agony of distress, she learned that her gallant sons were exposed, not only to the fierce war of the Crimea but also to the protracted miseries of a Turkish hospital, this Englishman and his accomplished wife laid aside the refined employments of taste and benevolence at home, proceeded to the tainted hospitals of Scutari, and there, associated with Miss Nightingale, personally administered all the consolations of which the sick and dying soldier was susceptible.

William, the only surviving son of Pudsey Jesson, saw the death of his two only sons, and sold the Langley estate to Andrew Hacket, esq., of Moxhull. His eldest daughter, Hannah Freeman Jesson, married — Pearson, esq.; and her only child and heir, William Jesson Pearson, died in Portugal during the Peninsular War, 1810. Her only sister, the younger daughter of William Jesson, married a foreigner of the name of Linche, but left no heir.

In the north aisle of the church is a tablet to the memory of William Jesson, esq., of Langley, who died October 21, 1786, aged 56 years.

Also to William Ash Jesson, son of William Jesson, esq., who died July 29, 1776, aged 22 years.

Also to Hannah Freeman Pearson, daughter of William Jesson, esq., who died February 33, 1826, aged 72.

This tablet was erected to their memory by Elizabeth Pudsey Linche, only surviving daughter of William Jesson, esq.

Another tablet near has the following inscription: "To the memory of William Jesson Pearson, esq., of Chetwood, co. Bucks, and of Sutton Coldfield, co. Warwick, last male descendant of the families of Pudsey and Jesson, this stone is inscribed by a grateful friend and relation. Having served his country and his king, with the British forces under Lord Wellington, in Spain and Portugal, with the rank of lieutenant, in the 14th Light Dragoons, and having witnessed the victory of Talavera de la Reyna, he fell a victim to fatigue and sickness at the age of 26 years, and died at Santarem, near Lisbon, in the month of April, A.D. 1810. most deservedly beloved, and most sincerely lamented."

The estate of Langley was bequeathed, in 1815, by Andrew Hacket, esq., to George Bowyer Adderley, esq., who sold it, in 1817, to the first sir Robert Peel, bart.

The ancient hall was wholly removed. The area of the moat has since been cultivated as a garden.

Arms of Pudsey: S, a chevron between three mullets or. Arms of Jesson: Azure between three cocks' heads, erased argent, crested and jawlopped or; a fess embattled of the

third crest ; a hand and arm in armour proper, holding a rose gules, stalked and leaved vert.

For pedigree of the Pudsey family see Appendix, No. 4.

## Wigginshill,

in Domesday written Winchicelle, perhaps from *wincel*, a corner, and *celle*, a cell, or *ceola*, a cottage on a corner of the waste. This, possessed by Turchill in the Conqueror's time, was certified to contain three yard-land, having woods of two furlongs in breadth, all valued at 5s., one Bruning being then the tenant, although, before the Norman invasion, it had been his freehold. With the rest of Turchill's lands, it came afterwards to the earls of Warwick, as is evident by the certificates of their fees in 20 Henry III, at which time one Bonchivalier enjoyed it. Afterwards, in 36 Henry III, Ralph de Willington held it and Clinton of the same earls by the service of a knight's fee ; to whom succeeded John de Willinton, in 9 Edward II, who held it singly for the fourth part of a knight's fee ; then it is written Wygenhull.

The earliest of this family on record was John de Willington, in the Conqueror's time. The gifts of his son and grandson to the convent of Repton, of a neighbouring manor and church of Willington, were confirmed by Henry III, 1252. Ralph de Willington was at the Siege of Acre, under Richard Cœur de Lion ; and, in the time of king John, he settled in Gloucestershire. His grandson, sir Ralph, and on his death, his son, John, were summoned to parliament as barons. In 1311 John de Wylinton was commanded to abstain from repairing to Norwich, for the purpose of taking a part in the quarrel between Henry de Segrave and Walter de Bernyng-ham. In 1313 he was peremptorily enjoined to abstain from attending tournaments, seeking adventures, or performing feats of arms. In 1321 Ralph and John de Wylinton, as followers of John Giffard, obtained pardons for all felonies, &c., committed in the pursuit of the Despensers.

In 1322 sir Henry de Wylynton, knight banneret, third son of John, took up arms with the barons against Edward II. He attacked Gloucester and burned Bridgnorth, and fought the king's troops at Burton-on-Trent. After other treasonable acts he was made prisoner at the battle of Borobridge, and was executed at Bristol in 1322. It was pretended that miracles were worked by his body hanging in chains. The old



poet Drayton, in his *Barons' Wars*, thus treats him and the other heroes of rebellion :

“ Nor, Willington, will I applaud thy spirit.

Your bayes must be your well-deserved blame,  
For your ill actions quench my sacred flame.”

In the same year John de Wyllington, who had also been in arms against the king, and had assisted in the burning of Bridgnorth, submitted to a fine of £3,000, and to a perpetual rent-charge, and thus obtained the condition of life and release from prison. He was summoned to parliament, as a baron, from 1329 to 1338, when he died. Their descendants held offices in the realm.

In later times one of the family, Waldyve Willington, was actively engaged as a parliamentarian in the Civil Wars, and was governor of Tamworth castle ; and, during the year 1654 he was the magistrate before whom, at Hurley Hall, the Sutton pairs went to be married, according to the new regulations of the Commonwealth. The representative of this ancient family is Francis Willington, esq., of Tamworth.

In 20 Edward III William de Lucy held Wiginshill, of John de Hull, by the fourth part of a knight's fee ; and he of John de Wyllington ; and he of the earl.

But by a court roll, 35 Henry III, Baldwin de Bereford, owner of Langley, is said to be lord of it ; whose ancestor, Osbert de Bereford, had lands here in Edward the First's time. In 10 Henry VI John Hore, esq., of Wishaw, descended from the same Baldwin, had it as three messuages, and held them by the fourth part of a knight's fee. These messuages were, in queen Elizabeth's time, sold to Thomas Gibbons, then of New Hall, by Robert Pudsey, esq. (heir of T. Hore), reserving the ancient rent, 46s. 2d. per annum, to himself and heirs.

There was anciently a suit between the abbot of Leicester, as rector of the church of Curdworth, and the parson of Sutton, for certain tithes arising out of nine yard-land lying in this hamlet, of which six were of the earl of Warwick's fee, and the other three of the fee of Thomas de Arden, and pertaining to the church of Curdworth. And because it was hard to distinguish between these fees, at length, by authority from the pope, certain judges were appointed, who decreed that two parts of the tithe corn of the nine yard-land should be paid to the church of Sutton, and the third to Curdworth ; and also that the inhabitants upon the six yard-land of the earl's fee

should repair to the mother church of Sutton, at Easter and the Assumption, and there communicate; and that the priest of Sutton should shrove them in Lent and on their deathbeds; and that they should bury at Sutton, and pay to that church all their small tithe; and because of their great distance from the mother church, they could not, without much inconvenience, go thither, that they should pay all their oblations to the priest of Curdworth, from whom they might receive spiritual comfort as occasion should require; as also that the priest of Sutton should yearly pay to the church at Curdworth 4d. to buy frankincense; and, lastly, that the inhabitants upon the three yard-land of Arden's fee should be answerable to the mother church of Curdworth for all oblations. In 1730 there were three houses on Arden's fee.

Wigginshill is now included in the district allotted to Walmley Church.

A Quaker's meeting-house stands in this hamlet, but, except as a burial place, it has not been used for many years.

## Peddimore

may owe its name to the situation in a hollow, *pied de moor*. Dugdale says there is no more remaining of an ancient manor place that the Ardens had than a large double moat; for after they settled in these parts, having another house on the south side of Tame, called Park Hall, they resided for the most part there, and let this go to ruin; and in 1656 it was level with the ground.

The double moat still remains (1859), and encloses an area of about 80 yards by 60 yards within it. Beneath the surface have been traced foundations of walls; and on a part of the ruins a farm house has been built, which shews some ancient masonry, and over the entrance door this inscription on an oval stone "*Deus noster Refugium.*"

Dugdale thinks the Ardens had not this manor until Sutton came into the hands of the Norman earls of Warwick. No mention of it appears before 9 Edward I, then it was styled the Manor of Peddimore.

The traditions and records of the Arden family, as Saxon earls of Mercia and Warwick, have already been given in their connection with this neighbourhood. Turchill, earl or vicecomes of Warwick, was the last of the family who held the dignities of his ancestors. He assumed the surname of

de Ardene, from the part of Warickshire in which his chief estates lay. He held forty-two manors, several of which were on the right bank of the Tame. He had submitted to the Conqueror, who, nevertheless, conferred the earldom of Warwick on a Norman, to whom, on the death of Turchill, William Rufus gave all his lands, and Siward, the eldest son of Turchill, held only a portion of them by military service to that earl. Siward's name appears to certain deeds; and he was a considerable benefactor to the monks of Thorney. Hugh, his eldest son, was also very liberal to the religious orders, making large grants out of his manor of Rotley to the monks of Stoneleigh, and giving his manor of Berwood, with an hermitage there, to the canons of Leicester, and with it large possessions in Curdworth, with the advowson of the church, and confirmed to the monks of Canwell a yard-land in Curdworth. His brother Henry succeeded him, and, in 12 Henry II, held of William earl of Warwick, 5 knights' fees. He gave largely to monasteries. His son Thomas also gave to the canons of Leicester lands and woods in Berwood, and gifts to other monasteries. This Thomas was one of those who met at the tournament at Blithe in Notts, contrary to the king's prohibition; for which his lands were seized on by the crown; but, in 7 Henry III, they were restored to him. He married Eustachia, daughter of a French courtier odious to the English nobility. He died before 1233, for in that year, Avicia, wife of William Arden, of Rodburn, made a complaint to the king, Henry III, that her husband was gone on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and not returned, and yet there was no certainty of his death; and that Eustachia had not only seized upon those lands which Avicia had, by her husband's assignment to maintain herself during his absence, but had also taken away her son and heir: whereupon the king commanded restitution of both. This son Thomas was a knight 48 Henry III, and was summoned to Oxford with the leading men of the country to advise with the king, and accompany him against Llewelyn, prince of Wales, then in rebellion: but he had little affection for this feeble and ill-conducted king, and soon after joined the insurgent barons, whilst Waleran, earl of Warwick, maintained the royal cause, and in 1265 he participated in the overthrow of his party, when the valiant prince Edward surmounted all adverse circumstances, and released his father from the hands of the rebels. The prince had effected his own escape from their custody, and lay at Worcester with an army. The

barons, with twenty banners from the north, pillaged Winchester, and returned to Kenilworth. Their movements were made known to the prince by Ralph de Arden, at that time amongst the rebel party. He employed a woman to convey the intelligence, who cunningly travelled in man's apparel. This Ralph of Hanwell was grandson of Thomas de Arden of Draiton, and great-grandson of the first William de Arden of Rodburn. The prince affected to march towards Salisbury; but suddenly turned, and in the night reached a valley near Kenilworth Castle. Whilst arraying his troops there, he heard sounds which at first led him to suppose the movement was discovered, and the enemy approaching: but the alarm was soon found to proceed from a train of foraging carts passing to the rebels—these were secured—the fresh horses employed, and the prince, entering Kenilworth, surprised and captured many of the insurgents. These he carried prisoners to Worcester, and obtained the liberty of the king, and a victory over the barons at the battle of Evesham. Thomas de Arden was there made prisoner, and although the *Dictum de Kenilworth* allowed him, by a moderate fine, to redeem his forfeited possessions, the disloyal enterprise appears to have ruined him; for in 9 Edward I—[1281]—he passed away, probably in trust, all his lands at Curdworth and some other places to Hugh de Vienne, and in 14 Edward I he quitted to the Knights Hospitallers his whole interest in Riton; in 15 Edward I sold the manor of Rotley, with the advowson of the church, to Nicholas de Eton; and about that time granted to Thomas de Arden, of Hanwell, and Rose his wife, the inheritance of the manor of Peddimore, and of all his lands in Curdworth, Moxhull, Minworth, Echinours, and Overton [enclosures at Echelhurst and Water Orton?], and finally conveyed to William de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, and Maud his wife, and his heirs, all the fees that he held of him.

The arms he bore were a chequi or, an azure, a chevron gules, which his ancestors assumed, as holding their lands of the earl of Warwick.

Thomas de Arden, of Hanwell, to whom Peddimore and other places had been passed, had his seat at Rotley. He accompanied Edward 1—[1276]—in the Welsh expedition. When he came into possession of Peddimore he began to exercise there the liberties he enjoyed in other properties, not considering it was within the compass of Sutton Chase, where the earl of Warwick had so much privilege relating both to vert and venison, so that the earl, having begun suit against

him, he was glad to seek his favour, and submit to a peaceable agreement; by which it appears that William Beauchamp, the earl, granted unto Thomas and Roese, and the heirs of Thomas, liberty to fish in that little stream called Ebbrook, at his coming to Pedimore, so far as his lands lay adjacent to it; as also they might have liberty to agist hogs within their woods at Curdworth and Peddimore; take benefit of the paunage; and beat down acorns for their swine; and likewise gather such nuts as should be there growing; and moreover to cut down wood for their fuel and hedges, without any assignation of the said earl's forester; and to sell £20 worth thereof, so that it were by the oversight of the said forester (to the end the chase might have the least prejudice thereby); as also timber to repair the buildings within the manor of Curdworth and Peddimore, by the like oversight of the forester, upon warning, or at least one of the earl's bailiffs at Sutton, or in those woods, in the presence of two neighbours. And if, upon such warning given, the forester should absent himself, that then the said Thomas and his heirs might, by the view of two neighbours, enter those woods, and cut down and carry away as much as should be necessary; but after the death of the said Thomas and Roese, neither his heirs nor assigns to take estovers for their fuel and hedges, nor timber, but by assignation of the earl's forester: and that their woodward should be sworn to the earl and his heirs as touching his venison, carrying a hatchet or forest bill, without bow and arrows.

And further, the earl granted to Thomas and Roese, and their heirs, liberty to make improvements of their waste within the said manors, according to the Sutton measure, to the extent of twenty acres only, and to enclose them according to the custom of the chase, so that does with their fawns might leap over the hedges; and that they might reduce the same land to tillage in several places, as they should think fit, to the least damage to the chase, and most advantage to themselves; saving to the commoners their common of pasture when the corn was off; and lastly, that the said Thomas and his heirs might peaceably hold in and enjoy four acres and half of the waste from which they had received the crop before this date, which was at Minworth, 1287.

Thomas married Rose, daughter of Ralph de Vernon, and left an only child, Joan, married to sir John Swinfen.

To him succeeded Robert his brother, who, living at Wykham, became governor of Banbury Castle, and in 15 Edward II

was in the Scotch expedition. He was a knight, and obtained license of the king to fortify his manor house at Wykham with embattled walls of lime and stone, and died 1331, possessed of a very fair estate. His grandson, Giles, being the last male of this branch, left an only daughter, Margaret, married to Ludovick Greville, esq., from whom the Grevells of this county are descended.

The next known possessor of this manor was Ralph, grandson of sir T. Arden, of Hanwell. In 17 Edward II he was certified to be one of the principal esquires of this county. His son John was a knight of much influence in Warwickshire. He impleaded the abbot of Leicester for the manor of Berwood with the advowson of the church of Curdworth, given to the canons of that house by his ancestor, on which the abbot, fearing partiality in the trial of the cause at Warwick, procured the king's letter to the judges on the circuit, sir John de Mowbray and Thomas de Hingylby, requiring for him equity, by which means the verdict was in favour of the abbot.

This sir John de Arden resided at his manor of Peddimore : for in 1360 he obtained license from the bishop to have a priest to celebrate divine service in his chapel there. He left a female heir, Rose, who married one Thomas Pakeson, afterwards outlawed for felony.

The heir male, his brother Henry, appears to have been the first of the family, who seated himself at Park Hall, for then sir J. de Botetourt, of Weolegh Castle, confirmed it to him with appurtenances in Castle Bromwich, reserving only a red rose to be yearly paid to himself and heirs for all services. The site of Park Hall is still marked by a moat, near the house now known by the same name, but the ancient buildings have been levelled with the ground. Henry de Arden was made a knight, and obtained from the earl of Warwick, 1 Richard II, in consideration of his good service done and to be done, a grant of the manors of Combe Adam, and Grafton Haworth, in Worcestershire, to hold for life, paying only a red rose. The same year he served as one of the knights of the shire in the parliament at Westminster, afterwards he served in the parliament of 3 Richard II, and in the following year had a release from Rose, daughter and heir of the late sir John de Arden, of all her interest in the manor of Peddimore and the lands in Curdworth, Minworth, Sutton, and Moxhull. In 5 Richard II, he was in commission with the earl of Warwick, and a few others of high rank, to

suppress the rebels in arms in this county, at the time of Jack Straw's insurrection. He left his son Ralph his heir, who was one of the retinue of the same earl of Warwick, and in 7 Henry IV—[1405]—assigned some manors for life to Elena, the widow of the late sir Henry, and to her brothers. He served the earl of Warwick at the siege of Calais, with one lance and two archers, taking for the lance and one archer £20 per annum, and for the other ten marks, without diet. He was a knight, and died 1419; on which Joan Beauchamp, lady, of Abergavenny, had the custody of Robert his son and heir, aged eight years.

This Robert, in 1433, was one of the chief gentlemen of the county who, in commission, made oath to observe articles determined by parliament. In 16 Henry VI, he was sheriff for this county and Leicestershire. In 1443, being designed to accompany Henry Percy, governor of Berwick, towards Scotland, he had the king's special letters of protection to endure for a whole year: but it seems he withdrew himself from the service, and stayed at Westminster, of which the king was informed, and revoked the protection. In 29 Henry VI, he served as one of the knights of this shire, in the parliament of Westminster. After this he sided with the Yorkists, and attempted to raise forces in Shropshire, but being taken prisoner, before the success at St. Alban's had strengthened his party, he was attainted of high treason by James, earl of Wiltshire, Richard Bingham, of Middleton, and John Portington, being judges to try him and others of the party, and lost his life in 1452, the custody of his lands being committed to Thomas Littleton, serjeant-at-law, Thomas Greswold, and John Gamall, esqrs.

To him succeeded Walter, his son and heir, who obtained, within two years after his father's death, the king's precept to his escheator, for render of those lands in this county of his mother's inheritance, and of some others, and became ere long possessed of the residence. He wedded Eleanore, daughter of John Hampden, of Hampden, Bucks.

And now we arrive at a romantic episode to the chronicle of legal conveyances, forfeitures, and executions. Two separated lovers reveal their woes to the gentle Tame. From the gable casement of Kingsbury Hall Alice Bracebridge, the fair Alice Bracebridge, gazes along the valley. Only peaceful cattle move there; they eat and grow fat—unfeeling herds! In vain from the moated cliff she ponders on the stream below, as though it would bear to her feet the ineffaceable

image of her lover; the languid wave comes unreflecting, and passes on—the unimpressible wave! Yet beside the lily bordered river, and through the groves which climb its banks, wanders with distraught step the youthful and disconsolate Arden, plucking and throwing away in disdain the flowers which fail to represent the charms of his forbidden idol: whilst an unsympathizing papa, and more unreasonable mamma, deny him the privilege of a matrimonial choice (as we are led to presume), and place him under a jealous surveillance. But the dejection of a daughter rouses the spirit of him of Kingsbury, who grows indignant to find his family alliance rejected by his neighbour and kinsman. Better skilled to hunt and fight than to parley, he determines to obtain redress by a bold foray; and learning that on a certain day the master of Park Hall would leave it slightly defended, he summons his stalwart retainers. The first blink of morning sees them in the saddle, and a few miles bring them to the unguarded drawbridge of the Ardens' Hall. The sudden invasion suspends all powers of opposition, and the squire of Kingsbury marches off with the heir of Peddimore and Park Hall.

But not quiescently did the returning master and the contravened lady take this unparalleled theft. King, lords, and law courts were invoked to restore their son, whom Walter Arden, the father, alleged to have been stolen away by Richard Bracebridge and his servants. At length, by a reference to sir Simon Mountford, of Coleshill, and sir Richard Bingham, the judge then living at Middleton, it was determined that the marriage should be solemnized in February, 1474, and in consideration of 200 marks portion, a convenient jointure should be settled; as also, for the trespass done by the same Richard Bracebridge in so taking away the young gentleman, he should give to Walter Arden the best horse that could be chosen in Kingsbury Park. On the death of Walter he bequeathed his body to be buried at Aston-juxta-Birmingham; and to the vicar of Aston, for tithes forgotten, his best ox, appointing that at his burial 12 lbs. of wax should be spent in lights, and six torches, to be borne by six poor men, each having a black gown for that service; also a trentall of masses to be sung for his soul, and the souls of his father and mother, and for all christian souls; appointing John Bracebridge one of his executors.

His son and heir, the romantic John, was one of the esquires of the body of Henry VII; and the next notice of him records that he bequeathed his body to Aston church,



and for his mortuary a black amblyng, "that Almighty God may the rather take my soul into his mercy and grace \* \* \* also my white harness complete to the church of Aston, for a George to wear it, and to stand on my pew, a place made for it: provided that, if the same George be not made within a year after my decease, that then I will that mine executors do sell it, and hire a priest to sing in the chapel at Orton so long as the money will extend. \* \* \* \* twelve poor women of my tenants to have each a black gown, hood, pair of bedes, fourpence, and a dinner, to bear each a torch about my hearse. Item, about my hearse to be 24 tapers,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of wax each. Item, every month's day during the year to be sung a solemn dirge, and on the morrow masse of requiem, for my soul and all christian souls. At each dirge and masse 3s. 4d. to be bestowed among priests and clerks, ringing, and lights. At Orton, a priest to sing two whole trentalls of St. Gregory, with the dirges, for two years, and to have £5 a year, &c. Item, my best gown of black damask to my parish church of Aston, to make a cope withal.

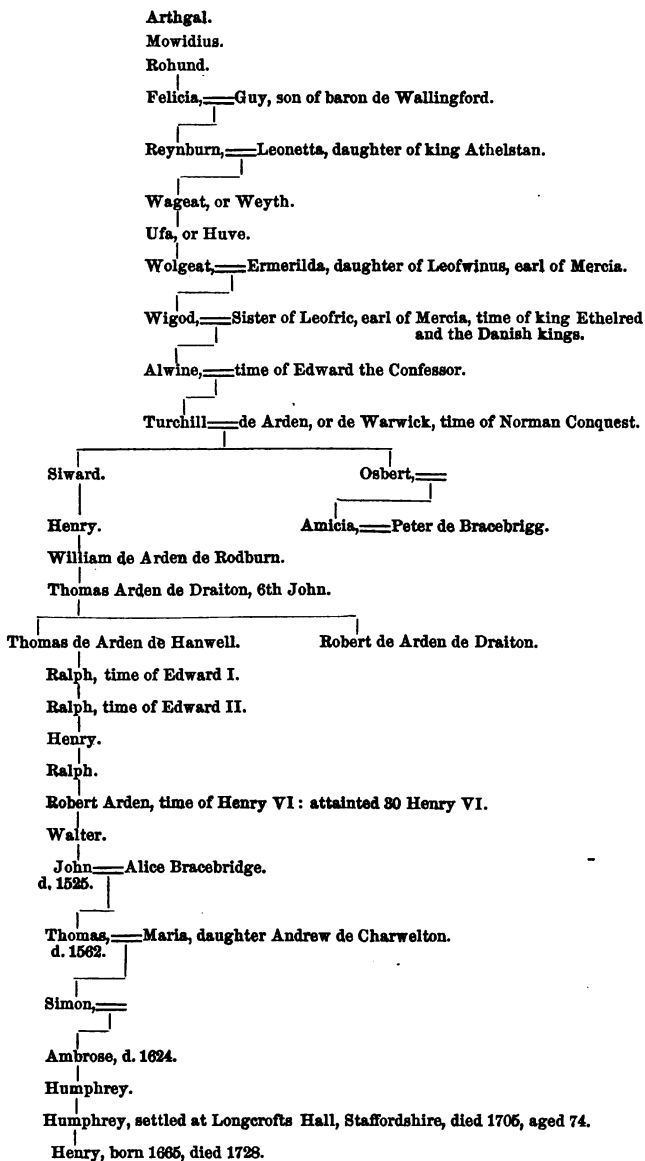
That which is here called mortuary was, in the laws of Canute, *saui yceat*, a tribute paid for the safety of the soul! Alas, for the darkness of those ages! the Saxon word, *yceat*, or pension, became used as the word *shot*, or payment for a traveller at an inn. This tribute was to be paid at the opening of the grave, and might be, at pleasure, an ox, a horse, money, or other goods, anciently led or carried before the corpse. The legacies for tithes forgotten became, in after times, united to the mortuary.

To this John, who died 17 Henry VIII, succeeded Thomas, and to him, in 1562, Edward, his grandson, who, though not inferior to his ancestors in virtue, had the hard hap to come to an untimely end, in 27 Elizabeth. The charge laid against him being no less than high treason against the queen, as privy to some foul intentions against her, that master Somerville, his son-in-law (a Roman Catholic), was charged with, and for which he was prosecuted with great violence by the earl of Leicester's contriving. He had irritated this earl in some particulars, partly by disdaining to wear his livery, which many of his rank in the county thought no small honour to them; but chiefly for galling him by certain harsh expressions touching his conduct towards the countess of Essex before she became his wife: so that, through the testimony of one Hall, a priest, he was found guilty, however unjustly, and lost his life at Smithfield.

Upon his attainder his lands were given away to Edward Darcey, esq., and his heirs; but Robert Arden, the son and heir of Edward, being a prudent person and well read in the law, by virtue of an entail made upon his marriage in his father's life-time, after very long suit, recovered all again, except the manor of Curdworth and Minworth; and living to a great age with no small reputation in this county, left, in 1635, Robert his grandson heir to the estate. This Thomas, an accomplished scholar, died in the flower of his youth, and his inheritance resorted, in 1643, to his four sisters, of whom, Dorothy, married Hervey Bagot, esq., and Anne, married Charles Adderley, esq., of Lea.

The family name is preserved in the descendants of Simon, second son of Thomas Arden and Maria his wife, daughter of — Andrewes de Charwelton, which Thomas died 5 Elizabeth, and Simon purchased Longcrofts Hall, co. Stafford, 1575. For the queen's service he found one light horse.

The mother of our Warwickshire bard, William Shakespeare, was Mary, daughter of Robert Arden, of Wilnecote, who was son of Arden, groom of the stole to Henry VII, and a great-nephew of sir John Arden, squire of the body to the same king, named above. It is probable that Mary married John Shakespeare, the father of the poet, soon after the death of her own father, whose will, in 1556, leaves to his youngest daughter Mary all his land in Wilnecote, &c.; and it is stated in a bill in chancery, November 24, 1597, that John Shakespeare and Mary his wife were lawfully seized in their demesne as of fee in the right of the same Mary, of and in one messuage and one yard-land, with the appurtenances, in Wilnecote. A grant of arms was made to John Shakespeare in 1569, and confirmed in 1599, when it was recited that he had married the daughter and one of the heirs of Robert Arden, of Wellincote; he was allowed to impale the arms of Shakespeare with the ancient arms of Arden of Willincote. The united arms were used in the seal of William Shakespeare's daughter. It is not improbable that the "lad of all lads, the Warwickshire lad," visited his kinsman at Park Hall, and tuned his lyre amid the song-inspiring wilds of Sutton Chase and the spirit-stirring ruins of its manor house. The following pedigree of the family begins with the traditional heroes of their line, and includes only the direct ancestors of the existing branch, represented 1859, by Henry Arden, esq., of Longcrofts Hall, who married Alice Hill, daughter of the bishop of Colombia:



Arms : ermine, a fess cheque, or and az. Crest: on a chapeau, purpure, turned up, ermine, a wild boar, passant, or. Motto : *Quo me cunque vocat patria.*

Probably in the early part of the 17th century, the family of Addyes became possessed of Peddimore. They were descended from sir Degory Addis, knight, who died 1521. Thomas Addyes, of Great Barr, acquired much landed property in Sutton parish and came to reside at Maney, where his ancient house still adorns the hamlet. He was warden, 1633, and at Sutton church some family registries were entered. He died in 1670. His younger son, John, settled at Moor Hall. His eldest son, Thomas, after having been warden 1642, 1651, and 1658, married Mary Grimshawe, the heiress of an estate at Knowle, and he appears to have lived on the family property at Barr during the lifetime of Thomas Addyes, sen., as his five elder children were registered in that parish. His youngest child was baptized at Sutton, 1676, and he was again warden, 1692. His sons and daughters were all buried at Sutton, excepting Mary, his eldest child, born 1662, who married the rev. John Tonckes; their only daughter, Anne Tonckes married William Scott, esq., of Stourbridge. Thomas Addyes, the eldest son and heir, born 1664, married Anne Hopkins, of Moor Hall. He died at Barr, and was buried at Sutton, 1723. His only son, John, died young, without issue, and his daughter and heir Mary Addyes, died 1786, unmarried, and left her paternal estates to her cousin Anne, wife of William Scott, of Stourbridge. Mrs. Scott bequeathed these estates to the three nephews of her husband. John, the second nephew, had the lands in Great Barr and Sutton, which remain in his family. His only daughter and heir, Mary Scott, married in 1830 the rev. Charles Wellbeloved, of York, who then dropped his paternal name, and took that of Scott. The family of Scott have been long settled in Worcestershire.

Arms of Addyes Scott: arg., on a mount of bulrushes, in base pp.r, a bull passant, sa, a chief pean billey, or, with a canton of the first.

## Manor, Parish, and Corporation.

When the king, in 1528, had granted the Charter to the inhabitants of the manor and parish of Sutton Coldfield, the political relations of this district were changed. Feudal tenure ceased. Fixed rents supplied the place of personal service. The rights of the chase extended only to the limits of the manor and parish.

Soon after the Reformation the care of the poor was laid on their respective parishes ; but these ecclesiastical divisions had existed in England since the year 636.

The boundaries of Sutton parish have not been undisputed ; and it is supposed to have lost territory through neglect on more than one occasion, as when its neighbours encroached on the Coldfield. In 1730, for the preservation of the boundaries between the Coldfield and Perry Barr, the corporation set to Francis Gibbons, the parcel of waste, mearing and bounding itself on the east with the highway called Ridgeway ; and on the south with the highway that leads from Sutton towards Perry Barr ; on the west by Hawthorn Brook ; and on the north with the highway from Sutton to Oscott ; for the purpose of making a coneygree and lodge for a keeper, without enclosing it. This tract has not been preserved to the parish, though the subject of boundary was agitated in 1760, and again in 1801-2. On the north the parish has been shorn : it once rejected the cost of burying a man, found dead on Four Oaks common, and that fact was fairly put forward by Shenstone parish, in its claim to a large slice of the adjoining waste. The evidence of numerous witnesses to its actually belonging to Sutton was inadmissible, they being all interested parties. As it is, the parish contains 14,000 acres. That portion within the park, which extends west beyond the Ickneild Street, is in Staffordshire.

When the parish ceased to be part of a chase the bishop destroyed the deer, that the poor might have the benefit of the pasturage on the commons. The cultivated portions at that time appear to have been chiefly meadows and fields belonging to Park Hall, Peddimore, and Langley, to the east (since written in the parish books "*beyond the wood*") ; patches at *Ashfurlong*, *Little Sutton*, and *Hill* (where the *Church Leasows* were perhaps the land anciently given to the Canwell monastery) ; and narrow fringes of enclosure about the town, the Ebrook, and the foot of Maney Hill.

From the *Echelhurst* (or Ashwood, distinguished by some ash trees from the prevailing oak woods), and *Signal Hayes*, to the extent of Hill, the commons were clothed with outwoods, as *Lyndrich* and *Hill-wood* (where, at the last enclosure, traces of charcoal burning were turned up). At the extremity of the parish, near Pype, a little field is still called the Bowbearer's Croft. Tradition says two officers of the chase, bowbearers, had a lodge there ; and that their duty was to guide the travellers across the wild country. A very old

cottage, that had been well built, was removed from the croft in 1828. In that neighbourhood was a fountain, called Robin Hood's well, now enclosed within the grounds of Penns, where the natural beauties of the situation have been judiciously displayed and improved by the taste of the late proprietor, Joseph Webster, esq., and by his son, Baron D. Webster, esq., the present owner.

The name of Walmley, or Warmley, has not preserved an obvious etymology. The soil, previous to drainage, does not warrant the designation of warm; but those who are acquainted with the provincial sound of our word *home*, a word often the cognomen of a field, as "*the home-close*," will be able to enter into the suggestion that the lea near Peddimore, in contra-distinction to the Lang-lea, was called *Woam-lea*, or *Home-lea*. From this also may have originated the family name of Twamley, or "*at Woam-lea*."

On the brow of the hill, above the Ebrook, *New Shipton*, in old deeds written *The New Shippen*, was probably a fold constructed for the flocks of the earl of Warwick at a later period than any near the manor house.

*Basset's Budds*, near Langley, perhaps note the shooting butts where a lord Basset performed some feat of archery: and a mile further north, *Hammon's Budds* may bear the name of a keeper of the butts. The family name of Hammon appears in the early registers. Inclosures where the rectory now stands, were divided from the town by an irregular waste, termed *the mettals* (meddel fields?), where many ways converged to the town. It led a thread of water from the *Moat-house* of Hugh Vesey to the *Blabs*, a flat town common, the abode of frogs and eels, where the Ebrook found its way through the *stone bed moor*, after it had turned the flour mill below *Mill-Street*. In 1754, the corporation leased to Joseph Oughton, of Birmingham, for one thousand years, the stonebed moors. Two centuries since Redicap lane was written *Eddo-cop*, and afterwards *Red-way cop* (*cop*, Saxon, head or top).

The fields adjoining the town on the west were called the *Eddowes*, or inclosed crofts. The upper part of Maney Hill, called the *Wall Moor*—the ridge towards Erdington, called the *Wild and Wildgreen*, were scarcely disturbed by cultivation. The Coldfield formed an extensive waste, united to heaths of other parishes. Upon it lay a lake or mere. It has some spots as *Welshman's Hill*, *Jordan's Grave*, where tradition fails: but *King's Standing* is a small artificial mound, reputed to be the position occupied by Charles I, when reviewing

troops brought up by the Staffordshire gentry, on the 18th of October, 1642. He was then on his way to Meriden, from a two days' visit at Aston Hall, and continued his journey by the Chester road to Castle Bromwich.

On Gibbet Hill a silk dyer, from London, was murdered, and his murderer gibbeted in 1729.

Within the park a spring, underneath a little hill, has long been known as Rowton Well. In a former age it was thought to possess medicinal virtue, which may have been due to the presence of chalybeate, of which there are several traces in the park. If it were so, the supply has ceased, and the well does not now discover any powers beyond that of a pure, cold spring.

"In Nuthurst's windings would you stray,  
Or o'er wild heath and length'ning way  
That leads to Rowton Well?  
Pellucid fount! what annual scores  
Thy stream to cleanliness restores  
The scribbled post may tell!  
How many Smiths and Joneses came  
And left to thee their votive name,  
How many more had done the same,  
Only they could not spell!"\*

The origin of the name of Rowton is not known. No such family name appears on the parish records, and it may possibly owe its appellation to British times, when it is said *Rah* signified the place of a camp, and *Din* was a hill. On a neighbouring mound there is a tumulus about thirty yards in diameter and three or four feet above the level of the hill summit. On the 12th July, 1859, an examination of this tumulus was made under the superintendence of Mr. Cooper, agent of the corporation, with the hope of discovering British remains. A trench across the tumulus, and pits, were dug, from four to five feet deep, without other result than the ascertaining that the first three feet in depth were artificial, of disturbed soil, and that below was solid sand, approaching to rock.

Several small eminences in this part were well adapted to the encampment of uncivilized tribes, having been sheltered by woods, and protected by a marsh which supplied water.

Although the clause in the charter, allowing the enclosure of sixty acres by any settler, was soon found incompatible with manorial rights, advantage appears to have been taken of it at first, by the evidence of some farms amounting to that number of acres. The fifty-one houses, built by the bishop, were of various dimensions. Some have stood the

\* *Sutton Park*: poem by CHARLES BARKER, esq.

wear of three centuries. The old part of Ashfurlong House, the White House near the Rectory, and the Warren House, are examples of massive farm buildings, and the stone house on the Ebrook, and small dwellings at High Heath, Little Sutton, and elsewhere, with Tudor-arched doorways, and, in a few instances, spiral stairs, still linger to his memory. Several ancient houses of stone in the town have been partly reconstructed, or faced with brick. Near Hammon's Budds there are remains of strong stone walls; and old men say that, half a century ago, they inclosed a large hall: but occupiers of the land have gradually cleared away as much as they were able to break up. A few trees hang over the ruin—a few garden flowers spring up in the meadow, where there are traces of fences and a terrace: but there exists no record of its inhabitants. These now jagged walls once engaged the ingenuity of men, and witnessed their doings. Of what is the ruin a memorial? Of calamity, fraud, or violence? Has folly disabled an heir from maintaining the mansion—or have successors abandoned a dwelling darkened by crime? Its story has perished.

The names of places suggest histories. If *Signal Hays* be a correct orthography, that high land near Walmley Church may have been used for signals for the chase, raised on its trees. The derivation of *Lyndrich* is *lyn* (Br. pool), and *rice* (Sax.) region. Ashfurlong has been a very early inclosure, the more ancient portion, west of the present house, measures sixty acres, which leads to the surmise that it was reckoned as the fourth part of a hide, and that the Sutton hide was two hundred and forty acres. Bishop Fleetwood says that *ferling*, or *farthing*, gave name to the fourth part of a perch or other measure of ground, *ferlingata* being as much as would yield the rent of a farthing.

*Pill-riddings* must be a tract where peat was peeled from a moor or rough ground (Br. *rhedyn fern*) or (Sax. *Hreod Sedge*); *Ladycroft* near Lindridge—land given by William de Overton to the nuns of Polesworth; the *Church Leasows*, and *gaubage*, or *gabelage*, toll or glebe land for the monastery at Canwell. There are three places called *Oslets* north-west of Hill Common, at Shepherd's Pool, and in the Mettals. Were they small hostels built of wood, and so gone to decay unnoted? *Pleck* is the Saxon *plæc*, a spot, the *Hade* meadow, one surrounded by a fence or hay; the *Coney-greve*, rabbit graves or burrows; *Burrels*, from *Berra*, open heaths; *Sherrals*, places of division between manors; the *al* derived from



British times, signifying much, or prevalent, as our word *all*, as in *Rocksall*, west of the Manor Hill, where quarries were worked. The upper and lower *Dam Meadow*, and *Stew Meadow*, are on the site of the ancient manor pools.

In the early part of this century a hawthorn tree in the middle of the turnpike road marked the division between this parish and Erdington; and the *Beggar's Bush*, on the Coldfield, was a similar landmark.

Pools still belonging to the corporation estate :

In 1604 the corporation made a grant in perpetuity to Edw. Pudsey, esq., of Langley Mill Pool, at the rent of 5s. In 1697 the corporation granted to Wm. Jesson, esq., of Langley Hall, to add to Lindrich Pool; and, for making the dam, to have it for the term of one hundred years, for the rent of 3s. and six bottles of wine to the warden. The two pools contain 5A. 2R. 9P.

In 1733 the corporation granted to John Riland, gentleman, to make a dam and a pool across Longmoor Brook, in the park, in which John Gibbons took part; and in 1754 leave was given to John Riland and Thomas Bonnell, tenants of half the pool, in right of Humphry Gibbons on one part, and Richard Reynolds on the other, to erect a mill at Longmoor Pool, and to hold it sixty-three years. It contains 7A. 1R. 14P.

In 1757 the corporation granted to Messrs. Edward Homer and Joseph Duncomb, to make a dam and pool in the park at Black-root, and to hold it for forty-two years, at the annual rent of 2s. In 1772 they let it to Mr. T. Ingram for thirty years. Black-root Pool has for many years been rented by S. F. S. Perkins, esq., and W. S. Perkins, esq. It contains 15A. 0R. 30P.

Mere Pool was, in 1782, leased by the corporation to Henry Curzon, but the larger part was, in 1826, converted into gardens for the Hill Corporation Schools. It is now a pond of 1R. 36P.

	A.	R.	P.
High Heath Pool contains . . .	4	2	9
Hill Hook Mill Pool contains : . .	3	1	21
Second Pool contains . . .	1	1	4

Pools alienated from the manorial estate :

Bracebridge Pool, perhaps constructed by sir Ralph Bracebridge in the reign of Henry V, is possessed by sir W. E. C. Hartopp. It contains thirty-five acres.

Powell's Pool, probably originally granted to one of the Gibbons family, who made inclosures surrounding it, is the largest pool in the parish.

Keeper's Pool, as it has belonged to the Manor Hill property, probably received its name from John Holt, esq., when park keeper, time of Edward IV.

In 1754, the corporation leased to Joseph Oughton, of Birmingham, the Stonebed Moors, Fleam-brook, Blade Mills, and Moorish Grounds, for one thousand years.

Windley Pool; belonging to the Manor Hill property, was at one time called the New Forge Pool, as more recently made than Powell's Pool.

Although, as has been stated, there is not a stream running into the parish, yet the supply of water within it is so abundant, that six mills are worked at the present time without the assistance of steam power. They are Longmoor, Powell's, Windley, Holland, New Hall, and Hill Hook Mill. Others formerly existed, of which the most important has only recently been removed. At the present time there is not a steam engine in the parish.

Two old roads from London have crossed the Chase. That from Coleshill to Lichfield, by Basset's Pole; and that from Castle Bromwich to Stonall, called the Chester road, on which the Chester heavy goods waggon moved slowly, until outrun by railways. These roads have seen military movements westward, and they must have crumbled under the "thousand baggage waggons" which William III despatched in 1690, with provisions for his troops in Ireland.

Until railways carried off travellers the Sutton turnpike road was the grand north communication with Bristol, and six different coaches relieved the town from *ennui*.

Other modes of breaking the silence have since been discovered in omnibuses oscillating between Birmingham and Sutton, with multitudes imported for a few hours' respiration of Coldfield air. Long may it continue worth the seeking—long may the gallant old Beacon hold his ramparts against the sappers and miners of the west, and the Tame stretch out lines of defence against dark cohorts from the south!

Sutton may readily be spoiled—not easily improved. Munificent privileges are her domicile; primæval nature is her decoration. Whatever diminishes the one or the other damages Sutton. Here, amidst her woods and heaths, the man, weary from the world's work, breathes freedom and refreshment; here the cottager, rambling in search of his depastured cattle, feels the pleasure of possessing rights, not the less acceptable that he shares them in common with his richest and his poorest neighbour.

The parish registers commence in 1603. The number of christenings for the first twenty years was 645; of burials, 501.

In 1630, houses in parish .....	298	In 1762, population .....	1800
In 1698     "     " .....	310	In 1801     "     " .....	2847
In 1721     "     " .....	360	In 1811     "     " .....	2969
In 1841     "     " .....	882	In 1821     "     " .....	3450
In 1851     "     " .....	900	In 1831     "     " .....	3684
In town, between bridge and toll gate .....	180	In 1841     "     " .....	4280
In street front .....	110	In 1851     "     " .....	4574

In 1636, under the tax for ship money, Birmingham paid £100, Coventry £266, and Sutton Coldfield £80.

In 1643 (April 4), Prince Rupert must have marched through Sutton on his way to Lichfield, after the battle of Birmingham. The people of Birmingham had supplied the parliament army with arms, and refused them to the king's service; and when it was reported that prince Rupert was about to pass through the town, the inhabitants took up arms, and with the assistance of one hundred musketeers, attempted to oppose his progress. They were soon overcome: and although the commanders of the royal force used every effort to prevent their men from retaliating on the inhabitants, parties of soldiers contrived to set fire to the town, and destroyed eighty houses: and the people cried out loudly of pillage and acts of violence—the probable consequences of civil war.

During the Commonwealth, marriages were performed before the civil magistrate. The happy pairs from Sutton sometimes waited on a bailiff of Tamworth, or Mr. Willington, at Hurley Hall, or Mr. Thomas Willoughby, at the Brick House, in Sutton (the house built in the Elizabethan style, but at a later period coated with rough stucco, and altered by three sets of bay windows). 1665, memorandum, parish register: There was a great fire in the park, April 14th. In an account, preserved in the British Museum, of moneys received for the relief of the poor Protestants of Piedmont, it is stated that in 1655,

July 9, Sutton Coldfield gave	£14	0	0
Birmingham	15	11	2
Aston	4	14	2
July 25, Shenstone	3	6	9

1668, memorandum, parish register:

"There was a great flood of water, so great here att Sutton pools, that it floed over the stone wall at the further end of the dam, by reason of a suden Rayne, which did breake downe Wynly-poole Dam, and alsoe Brass-bridg pool dam, July 24."

1668, parish register:

"Buryed Elionor Olibery, widdy; alsoe William Olibery, sonn of the sd Eleonor: was buryed the same 4th day of June. Both brought to their graves together (who were both of ym drowned in a pytt in goeing into a pytt to fetch out a gosling, as it was credibly reported)."

There is a certificate—[1671]—of the names of those who held land and houses in the parish, with the value of the estates, according to a book of one shilling in the pound, made by Thomas Scott, John Adyes, Abraham Pemberton, Thomas Cotton, Richard Rogerson, Ralph Cooper, William Penn, Richard Turner, Benjamin Cockersole, viz.

George Sacheverell, esq., for New Hall and the lands . . .	£113	0	0
Licester Grosvenor, for his house and land . . .	58	0	0
Mr. William Watson, rector, for the parsonage . . .	120	0	0
Mr. Scott, for house and land . . .	48	0	0
Jos. Reanor, for house and land . . .	48	0	0
Mr. Powell . . .	24	0	0
Mr. Bachelor and tenant, for the mills . . .	28	0	0
Richard Martin, for Eddow Croft . . .	5	0	0
John Eagles, for Dove Bank . . .	3	0	0
Thomas Dawney, gent., for house and land in his tenure [the Manor House ?] . . .	10	0	0
Mr. Willoghby, Hanarn, and tenants, for lands . . .	9	0	0
William Pearsall, for Stumps Ground . . .	8	0	0
Robert Wright, for Park Meadow . . .	3	10	0
William Pearsall, for Cross Olk Hand . . .	2	10	0
James Huneyborn, for Swan Meadow . . .	5	0	0
Thomas Clifton, for his house and land [Clifton's Hill ?] . . .	9	0	0
Mr. John Bussell and Robert Rogerson, for Park Leasow . . .	10	0	0
John Halk, for Burnett Meadow . . .	3	10	0
Robert Rogerson, for Burnt Green . . .	3	10	0
Thomas Norris, for Blabs Meadow . . .	2	10	0
Thomas Walker, for the Farthing . . .	4	0	0
Robert Rogerson, for Cranmore . . .	6	0	0
Henry Pudsey, for Langley . . .	120	0	0
William Wood, gent., for house and land . . .	50	0	0
Mr. John Allporte, for house and lands . . .	38	0	0
Mr. Raphael Sedgwick, for house and lands [Wild Green ?] . . .	93	0	0
Mr. John Addyes [Moor Hall ?] . . .	61	0	0
Mr. Thomas Veasey . . .	35	0	0
Margery Stonies, for house and land . . .	50	0	0
Mr. Jesson, for house and appurtenances . . .	4	0	0
These, with smaller holdings, in all seventy-nine, make the total yearly value of the parish cultivated land . . .	1829	10	0

(From papers at Rectory.)

1677, parish register :

"Buried the wife of John Norris, of Four Oaks, being the sixth wife."

"1678—Married John Norris unto felis Dibble, she being the seventh wife which he hath hadd."

1721—Number of families in parish were 360.

Great Sutton, free tenements . . .	83	Cottages . . .	19
Hill and Hill Hook . . .	37	" . . .	30
Little Sutton . . .	23	" . . .	18
Moor and Ashfurlong . . .	31	" . . .	29
Beyond the wood . . .	16	" . . .	11
Warmley . . .	18	" . . .	0
Maney and the Wild . . .	31	" . . .	9
	244		118

## 1728, parish register :

"Buried Thomas Eastham, a stranger, found murdered at the upper end of Holly Lane, by Edward Powers, who was gibbeted on Little Sutton Common."

1737—The corporation ordered the almshouses to be taken down, and a workhouse to be built, for which they had voted £800 in the year 1727.

## Anecdotes, contributed by B. D. Webster, esq.

In 1745, a portion of the Duke of Cumberland's army marched across the parish on its way to meet the Pretender in Scotland. Some of the troops lay at night at Castle Bromwich, the officers occupying the new inn now called the Bradford Arms. Here they spent the evening with so much revelry that the officer in command, on moving with his regiment next morning, was not sufficiently sober to know that he was without his sword. On reaching Basset's Pole he made the discovery, and was obliged to retrace his steps to recover his weapon. He was, however, so much entertained by the adventure, that on reaching the inn he declared that as long as he lived he would give a banquet there on the anniversary of the day on which he marched to fight for his king and country without his sword. This promise he fulfilled, and persons now living have had the circumstance related to them by those who actually assisted at the celebration of an exploit, which at this day would not be regarded as justifying an annual jubilee.

The same officer may have been a principal actor in another adventure of that morning. The advanced guard being ignorant of the road, made inquiries of a man whom they found near Tyburn. The poor fellow had no roof to his mouth, and the soldiers being unable to understand a word he uttered, pronounced him a spy, and took him as such before the commanding officer. He at once ordered him to be shot. The order was instantly executed, and in further vengeance his head was struck off and carried on a halbert as far as New Shipton, and there tossed into a tree, the body having been thrown into a ditch in the Echelhurst, just below Pipe Hays. Singular enough, to confirm the tradition, the body and head were found within a few weeks of each other, in the year 1827. The one at the draining of the meadows, where the execution had taken place; and the other on the felling of the ruins of one of the finest old oaks in the parish.

An annual publication, entitled *Present State of England*, in 1750, says : "Birmingham is a large improving town; and Sutton Coldfield, distant from London eighty-eight computed miles, and 106 measured miles, though a small town, and the soil of it but poor and barren, is noted for its excellent air and its situation, amongst a great variety of delightful woods."

In 1806, a Sunday school for girls, under the superintendence of ladies, was established in connection with a clothing club of long standing; afterwards a Sunday school for boys was instituted. These were maintained by subscriptions.

In 1815 a camp was formed on part of Hill Common nearest to Little Hay. It consisted of the Edinburgh and Sussex Militias, the Seventh Dragoon Guards, and a brigade of Artillery.

At the battle of Waterloo, Colburn, a Sutton private soldier, was one of the heroes who held the gate of Hugomont. He afterwards returned home on his pension, and ended a long life in peace at Little Sutton.

In 1826 a piece of new road was constructed between the Manor Hill and Sutton, in order to obtain a better level and more direct line for the turnpike road, by raising it across the

valley. The stone dam of the ancient pools was removed, which had hitherto formed the wall beside the old road, the portion of road remaining still bearing the name of the Dam. Another wall of living rock, which pursued the curved descent of Milk Street to the Dam, was cut away from thwarting the top of the new road. The position and height of this wall shewed how much of the hill had been hewed down for the progress of the town.

In 1836 the parish of Sutton was thrown into the Aston Union, and the duty of restraining the wants of the needy devolved on strangers.

In 1837, Aug. 8, for the first time, Sutton became a polling place for the members for North Warwickshire.

## History of the Corporation in the Law Courts.

In 1581, a complaint having been made by William Taylor and other inhabitants before the Star Chamber, against Thomas Gibbons, esq., and others, stating, amongst other things, that the defendants having been sixteen or seventeen years past chosen to be wardens, had made grants in fee-farm of lands belonging to the corporation to their own uses, to the number of 600 or 700 acres, reserving only twopence an acre rent to the corporation; and had also made other grants to themselves; and had stocked the park with strangers' cattle, and spoiled the woods, and employed the profits belonging to the town to their own use: sir Fulke Greville and others, under a commission at Sutton, inquired into the case, and then ordered that such coppices and inclosures in the park, or within the parish which appertained to the corporation, and had been enclosed in the lifetime of bishop Vesey, should from thenceforth be kept enclosed, as in his days, saving that the inhabitants should have such common of pasture as they were used to have in the coppices since their enclosure, and that they should also have the profits of all other lands enclosed belonging to the corporation separated since the death of the bishop, as they of right had had, saving that the corporation might keep enclosed the coppices for the preservation of the woods.

They also ordered that there should not be made in future any further enclosure or improvement, or conveyance away of any part of the manor, by any person whatever, unless by the assent of the corporation and the greater part of the free-

holders ; also, that no person occupying a cottage, built since the death of the bishop, should, in respect of such cottage, have common of pasture : all other residents might turn cattle into the park, as accustomed, paying the accustomed charge ; and that any one fraudulently turning in strangers' cattle should be disfranchised. That order was not to apply to any small enclosure under an acre.

By a decree in the Court of Exchequer—[1617]—it appears that one Robert Blakesley had exhibited a bill in that court against the corporation, charging them with having employed the profits of the estate to their own uses, and that they had sold the king's manor house there, the stone, timber, glass, lead, &c., and the lands, mylnes, pools, and park, and had wasted his majesty's woods to the value of £1,000, and conveyed away farms and tenements, reserving a rent of £10 per annum, to the overthrow of the free school ; and within three years had consumed the underwood in Lindridge and Sidnall Hay, containing forty acres, by putting cattle therein ; and had converted one hundred acres of common pasture into tillage, reserving a yearly rent, whereby the poor lost the benefit of common, and had made free many of the customary tenants ; and had sold away one thousand acres, and had kept in their hands lands escheated to the manor, affirming themselves to be lords thereof ; and had received to the value of £10,000 for the bargains without employing it according to the charter, and continued selling or converting lands to their own use.

The corporation denied the mal-administration charged against them ; on which a commission was awarded to sir E. Bromley, kt., and others, who decreed that the award of sir Fulke Greville should be confirmed, and that all grants and conveyances made according to it should stand. That the corporation might enclose and preserve the coppices, and that they might set out, from time to time, portions of the waste ground for tillage, for which the following rules should be observed : 1st, the poorest inhabitants should have one-third of this enclosure for getting of corn, and should choose on which side of the enclosure their parts should be, so that all the portions of the poor lay together, and were well fenced for the allotted period ; and the corporation and freeholders might use the rest in tillage according to their proportions, and should properly fence their lots ; 2nd, no part of the ground should be burned ; 3rd, all the grounds should be well manured and tilled ; 4th, these lands should not be tilled

more than four years; lastly, there should be paid yearly to the corporation twopence an acre for these lands; also that no more cottages should be built on the wastes, unless sparingly, for the relief of poor and impotent people; that all persons inhabiting cottages, built on the wastes in the lifetime of the bishop, might have the same and their commons according to custom; but that cottages erected since his death should be pulled down, as soon as the tenants died or vacated them; and any of the wastes that had been enclosed to them should be restored to the common.

The commissioners found that lands of the yearly value of one hundred marks, given for the maintenance of the school, had been by former wardens and corporations made away with: so that there was then only £10 yearly for the schoolmaster, by which the school which had been famous was almost destroyed. The commissioners, therefore, advised that the corporation should commence a suit for the recovery of these alienated lands, or for the obtaining of a reasonable rent for the maintenance of the master, according to the intent of the founder; and as regarded Blakesley, the plaintiff, they found he was no inhabitant of Sutton Coldfield, nor interested in the things of which he complained, and yet he had molested the corporation with suits in law the fourteen years past, not upon any just ground of suit, nor intending the good of the corporation, but only seeking his own ends to erect a cottage, and enclose sixty acres of land for his own private benefit, directly contrary to the award of sir Fulke Greville; and the commissioners were of opinion that Blakesley had, by his contentious proceedings, rather deserved punishment than praise, and, therefore, ordered good costs against him. The court ordered that the advice of the commissioners should be confirmed.

Another suit in chancery was long after instituted by Benjamin Blackham against the corporation, complaining of abuses of the property, and of injury done to the freeholders by enclosing. By the decree of the court in 1675, it was declared that the enclosure of the park and commons, and the felling of timber without the consent of the major part of the freeholders, were contrary to the letters patent of Henry VIII, and a perpetual injunction to restrain them was issued.

In 1726 John Bickley commenced a suit respecting the letting of the cottages within the manor, which was terminated by a compromise by which leases of twenty-one years were granted to the complainants.



About the year 1727 proceedings were commenced against the corporation by William Twamley and others, for the purpose of resisting an attempt made by them to increase the payments of the inhabitants for the agistment of horses and cattle in the park. This litigation was terminated, in 1788, by an agreement that the ancient payments should be accepted.

In 1788 immediately after that agreement, an information was filed by the attorney general, at the instigation of the same William Twamley and others, against the corporation and seven others, complaining that large quantities of timber had been felled and large quantities of ground enclosed, and let at inadequate rates.

In their answer the corporation submitted that the premises granted by Henry VIII were vested in them, but not for their own use; and that there were extensive woods in the park, and upon the waste lands, and that the moneys derived from the sales of timber, &c., had been received by the corporation; and, with the consent of the inhabitants, certain portions of land had been enclosed by former wardens out of surplus revenue, and placed under the same trust; and that the rents and profits had been for some time paid to the overseers of the poor: and they did not claim any benefit to themselves, as was suggested by the complaint; but they claimed to be legal owners of the park, and to be entitled to cut down wood as they should think fit, provided they applied the profits to the purposes intended by the charter: that they kept accounts of receipts and disbursements, but had not in their custody any accounts previous to the year 1760.

In the progress of this suit an injunction was granted (1792), whereby the corporation was restrained from cutting down any wood on the estate until further orders from the court. And in 1799 it was referred to one of the masters in chancery to settle a plan for conducting the charity, regard being had to the charter.

In 1801 the master certified that it would be proper for the warden and society to continue the management of the charity, and that out of the annual revenue, stated by the relators to be £220, there was to be paid the crown rent of £58, and corporation expenses. In 1802 he ordered that the proceeds from timber about to be sold should be vested in 3 per cent. Consols. The net proceeds were thus invested, after the payment of £1,825. 5s. 4d., the costs of the suit.

From the dividends further purchases of like stock were

from time to time made; and in 1822 the whole of this fund amounted to £38,475. 8s. 10d., and £3561. 14s. 3d. in hand. For the application of this fund the corporation obtained leave of the court to bring in a scheme, which was confirmed, and which has been in operation since the year 1825.

The affairs of this branch of the charity continued under the regulation of the court; the interest on the timber fund was paid to the corporation; and the accounts were passed before the master until, in 1833, by petition, the corporation were relieved from this expense, which averaged £70 per annum, and they were themselves allowed to receive the dividends.

In 1827 a law suit, entered upon by some of the cottagers, to establish their claim to the freehold of their buildings, was terminated in favour of the corporation.

In 1835 the Municipal Act, which abolished most of the old corporations, was carried through parliament; but Sutton made a great effort to escape demolition, and succeeded in preserving her ancient charter, the house of lords judging that the new act could not be applied here beneficially, as the trust committed to the corporation was principally that of the management of a charity.

About the year 1855 an attempt was made by some inhabitants and others to bring the corporation under the powers of the Municipal Act. A commission, conducted by major Warburton, was appointed by the privy council, and, in August, 1855, sat twelve days inquiring, in open court at Sutton. The result was that the commissioner recommended that there should not be any interference with the present powers of the corporation. As the whole of this investigation has been printed and published in a separate volume, it is unnecessary here to enter into particulars.

It has been seen by the decree of the exchequer, 1617, that the periodical tillage of a portion of the waste ground was allowed, which continued until the passing of the Inclosure Act, 1824. The land was called the Field Acres. Every fourth year the quantity set out was equal to an acre for each householder, who drew for it by lot. Before the lots were drawn the value of the chance was latterly £5.

There are not at the present day any means of ascertaining what was the state of the property under the charter when first it came into possession of the corporation, nor of tracing the subsequent variations of the property alluded to in the early law suits.

The first complete rental found is in 1720; but neither in that nor in subsequent rentals are the quantities of land specified. These were first ascertained in 1811. The Inclosure Act, in 1824, has caused considerable alterations.

## Income and Expenditure of the Corporation.

The income of the corporation arises principally from three sources: first, from the dividends on money vested in the public funds, originating in the sale of timber, 1803; secondly, from the rents of lands and tenements in the parish: and, thirdly, from the produce of the fall of timber in the park—the income varying from about £2,000 to £3,000.

The sum now in the public funds amounts to £30,554. 18s. 10d., Three per Cent. Consols, the dividends on which are £916. 13s. per annum. The greater part of this is appropriated to schools and other charities, under the scheme sanctioned by the court of chancery, which has been in operation since the year 1825. Some of the principal of this fund was expended by an order of the court, 1825, in draining the park, in building schools in the town, at Hill, and at Walmley; in building almshouses and keepers' lodges in the park, and in defraying the costs of a chancery suit instituted by the cottagers, who claimed the freehold of their holdings. The suit terminated in favour of the corporation in 1827.

The second branch of the corporation revenue arises from rents, chiefly of lands, with or without farm buildings, and of cottages, with small allotments of land, from a perch to three or four acres.

Before the year 1824 the commons comprised nearly 3,000 acres. In that year the act for inclosure confirmed to the corporation, as lords of the manor, all cottage inclosures from the waste of twenty years' standing. The quantity of waste allotted to the corporation was 302A. 1R. 12P. About 100 cottages had been built at different and remote times, at a mere nominal rent. Most of these cottages having been rebuilt or repaired, are let now at a moderate rent. The quantity of land belonging to the corporation is upwards of 365 acres. The rental of the whole property is upwards of £1,200 per annum, from about 120 tenants.

The third source of corporation revenue is the park, in its timber and underwood. The sales from 1727 to 1787 inclusive, at ten different periods, produced the total of £8,263. 7s. 11d.

## Expenditure.

The first items are the various charities, most of which remain as they were allowed by the court of chancery in 1825, and are so far defrayed by the dividends from the funded property. The decree made in 1825 did not extend to the rents of the real estate. Amongst these charities are seven free schools, in which 120 boys and 120 girls are clothed and educated; and the education is extended to other children admitted into the same schools. The boys' schools at Sutton and at Hill are allowed each fifty on the clothed list, with about twenty additional scholars, to meet the wants of the neighbourhood. The girls' school in each place has a similar number of pupils. The original numbers allowed to Walmley were twenty boys and twenty girls on the clothed list: but in 1840 the boys were removed to a new school built in the Green Lanes, near the Coldfield, where their number is increased by free scholars; and in 1851 the Walmley girls' school was removed to a new school house, built near the church at Walmley, to accommodate, besides the twenty free girls, other girls and infants in the neighbourhood. The numbers on the books are sometimes 150. A girls' and infant school recently built on the Coldfield is mainly supported by the corporation who also assist one infant school and two Sunday schools in the town, an infant school at Mere Green, and one at Hill. The expenses of the recently built schools, and the additional salaries for the masters and mistresses have been defrayed out of the proceeds of the landed estate. Thus about 600 children receive instruction, and about 400 receive medical attention at the cost of the corporation.

The amount of salaries for masters and mistresses is now (1859) about £340 per annum.

The following charities are also supported by the corporation, and form part of the scheme:

Ten almshouses, with an endowment each of 15s. per month for a single person, and £1. 5s. per month for a man and his wife. They have also a good supply of coals.

The gift of fifty pairs of blankets, at the cost of £30 a year, to poor inhabitants, chosen by the corporation.

To a lying-in charity £76 per annum.

Ten children apprenticed annually, or allowed clothing on going to service, as school rewards; and twenty-four boys assisted in their education at the Grammar School, or other schools in the parish, at the cost of about £50 per annum.

A considerable outlay has been made on the buildings belonging to the estate, especially on the cottages, and this work will continue to make a large demand on the revenue. As regards the cottages, a pecuniary remuneration is not to be expected; but when, against any objection on this head, is weighed the great importance of providing commodious dwellings for the working classes, it will be seen that in this appropriation of the funds the original intention of the charter, to convey moral as well as physical benefits to the Sutton community, is carried out; and that a more advantageous measure, in connection with the others named, can scarcely be proposed.

Other expenses annually incurred are the maintaining of a public weighing machine; also a parish hearse; the salaries of municipal officers, of park keepers, and woodmen; and usual and incidental expenses in the management of the estate.

The gradual improvement of the property has allowed of the extension of the charities from time to time.

On the 1st of May in every year the corporation awards out of their funds a marriage portion to four poor maidens, natives or long resident in the parish; and the choice falls on those who produce the highest testimonials not only regarding themselves, but as to the characters of the men with whom they are about to unite themselves.

A valuable trust is also administered by the corporation, that is, the meadow land given by the bishop, and commonly called the "Lord's Meadow Charity," which confers on fifteen poor widows £2 per annum each.

It is calculated that upwards of 700 persons receive direct benefit from the corporation expenditure.

The inhabitants also derive from the park the depasturing of their cattle, and labour for men in the winter in making kids and besoms for sale; and also fuel picked for their own use.

The Moot Hall has been thrice built. That originally erected by bishop Vesey fell to decay, and was pulled down in 1671. A note in the parish register says—

"At which time the Towne Hall floore fell done by the preesse of people there."

It was on occasion of receiving a dole: but no one was seriously injured. The second edifice was found to be in so insecure a condition that it was taken down in 1854, and its site, in the middle space at the top of the hill of Mill Street,

being too confined for a spacious hall, and a building there interfering with the traffic and appearance of the street, a new place was chosen on the side of the church hill, some of which was cut away, and a new town hall was commenced in 1858; the ceremony of laying the first stone took place on the 25th of August, and on the 29th of September, 1859, the building was opened with a banquet, given to the high steward, lord Leigh. Mr. George Bidlake, of Wolverhampton, was the architect; and the whole work was completed, with its interior fittings, at a cost of £4,400. Baron Webster, esq., having interested himself much on the subject, was chosen warden, the fourth time in succession, that he might carry out the plans.

It may be asked whether such large immunities bear proportionate beneficial results.

Of course the effects will always correspond to the mode of administering a public fund. If expressly used to promote the moral, that is, the true, benefit of the community, it cannot fail of so happy a result, and that in proportion to the wisdom exercised.

In proof of the benefits actually obtained by this parish, its statistics can be compared with those of neighbouring agricultural districts; and on the lowest ground—the pecuniary—the rates of Sutton are, in proportion, less than half those of Coleshill, Swinfen, Middleton, Drayton, Tamworth, and Kingsbury, as calculated on the population per head. See printed report of 1852. Whilst other tables shew that this parish stands far before the best of eighteen neighbouring rural parishes, in a prominent indication of general good conduct. See the returns of the parishes from 1849 to 1851, in the report of the Registrar General.

## Flowers and Ferns.

Besides the flowers common to the neighbourhood, the following are found at Sutton :

<i>Pinguicula Vulgaris</i> .....	Butter-wort.
<i>Eriophorum Angustifolium</i> .....	Cotton Grass.
<i>Valeriana Locusta</i> .....	Valerian.
<i>Anagallis Tenella</i> .....	Bog Pimpernel.
<i>Campanula Patula</i> .....	Spreading Bell Flower.
<i>Menyanthus Trifoliatum</i> .....	Buck Bean.
<i>Drosera Rotundifolia</i> .....	Sun Dew.
<i>Erica Cinerea</i> } .....	Heaths.
<i>Erica Tetralix</i> } .....	
<i>Erica Vulgaris</i> } .....	
<i>Vaccinium Myrtillus</i> .....	Bilberry.
<i>Lychnis Rubrum</i> .....	Red Catch Fly.

<i>Lychnis Flos-cuculi</i> .....	Ragged Robin.
<i>Oxalis Acetosella</i> .....	Wood Sorrel.
<i>Lythrum Salicaria</i> .....	Loose Strife.
<i>Potentilla Anserina</i> .....	Silver Weed.
<i>Potentilla Reptans</i> .....	Creeping Cinque Foil.
<i>Galeobdolon</i> .....	Yellow Dead Nettle.
<i>Rimanthus Crista Galli</i> .....	Yellow Rattle.
<i>Polygala Vulgaris</i> .....	Milk Wort.
<i>Ononis Arvensis</i> .....	Rest Harrow.
<i>Arzom Maculatum</i> .....	Cuckoo-pint.
<i>Pseudacorus</i> .....	Yellow Water Iria.
<i>Bryonia Dioica</i> .....	Red Berried Bryoney.
<i>Tamus Communis</i> .....	Black Bryoney.
<i>Empetrum Nigrum</i> .....	Black Crow Berry.
<i>Orchis Masculata</i> .....	Early Purple Orchis.
<i>Pinguicula</i> .....	Bog Violet.
<i>Euphrasia Officinalis</i> .....	Eye Bright.

## Ferns.

<i>Osmunda Regalis</i> .....	Royal Fern.
<i>Botrychium Lunaria</i> .....	Moonwort.
<i>Ophioglossum Vulgatum</i> .....	Adder's Tongue.
<i>Pteris Aquilina</i> .....	Common Brake.
<i>Asplenium Filix Femina</i> .....	Lady Fern.
<i>Blechnum Boreale</i> .....	Hard Fern.
<i>Aspidium Oreopteris</i> .....	Heath Shield Fern.
<i>Aspidium Filix Mas.</i> .....	Male Fern.
<i>Aspidium Spinulosum</i> .....	Prickly Shield Fern.
<i>Aspidium Dilatatum</i> .....	Dilated Fern.
<i>Polypodium Vulgaris</i> .....	Common Polypody.
<i>Aspidium Lobatum</i> .....	Evergreen Fern.
<i>Scolopendrium</i> .....	Hart's Tongue.
<i>Asplenium Trichomanes</i> .....	Common Maidenhair.

Thus we have reviewed the eras which have left their traces on the loved spot on which we stand. The vision of its own primæval landscape—the footprints of early ages—the monuments of more civilized periods, should render the soil sacred to its inhabitants, and appeal to them, with solemn importunity, to prove themselves grateful recipients of so many privileges; to stand forth earnest in the cause of truth; trained in the service of humanity, and faithful to transmit to future generations the benefits in which they themselves rejoice.

“TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD, SO SHALT THOU DWELL IN THE LAND, AND VERILY THOU SHALT BE FED.”

## Border Districts.\*

### Aldridge,

CO. STAFFORD,

a manor touching on Sutton Chase, is written in Domesday Book, Alrewic (from the Saxon words *ald*, *old*, and *rike*, a *domain*), which intimates that before the Northmen took possession, a British lordship existed here. The name of Druid Heath, the small tumulus in the field north of the church, and British remains in the neighbourhood, favour the conjecture that some cogent interests on Barr Beacon led to the early cultivation of this high and dry region.

Domesday records that Robert holds of William Fitz-ansculph, three hides in Alrewic. The land is three carucates. There are two in demesne, with one bondsman, five villans, with one borderer. They have two ploughs. There is one acre of meadow; and the woods, where cattle may be depastured, are five quarantines long and three broad. It is valued at 15s.

The seignory paramount (its style, *Manor of Great Barr and Aldrewich*) causes great intricacy in the older part of the title, and at this time it is not perhaps possible to trace the early descents and transmissions of either manor. The seisin of Stapleton, and also that of lord Ferrers, appear to have been in the manor paramount, and in the Barr lands. Hilarys had an interest in the inferior manor, Alrewich. But the family of de Alrewich were lords here for a number of descents; from them it passed to Roger Merton; then to sir Robert Stapleton (time Henry III), whose crossed-legged effigy is in the church; afterwards to the family of Mountford (time Henry VI), warm adherents to the house of Lancaster; and perhaps sir William Mountfort had it by his second wife, Jane, daughter of William de Alrewich, who

\* The rights of the Chase extending over border parishes, as enjoyed by former lords, were not conferred with the Free Warren of the parish of Sutton Coldfield, granted to the Warden and Corporation in the Charter; therefore all connection ceased with the surrounding districts. Their separate history is, however, given in a concluding chapter.



caused her husband to exert unjustifiable means to deprive his first family of their paternal inheritance in favour of her son, sir Edmund Mountford. Sir Edward Mountford and his son, Simon, sold, in 1629, the manor and estate to Jordan and Brandreth; which latter, the next year, released to Jordan solely, whose descendant, John, clerk, in 1761, devised them to his nephew-in-law, Edward Croxall, esq., in whose representatives they still remain.

On the 10th March, 1645, it was ordered by the committee of the rebel forces at Stafford, for the speedy supply of their garrison at Rushall, that captain Robert Tuthill, governor of Rushall, should gather from persons in Aldridge, Stonall, &c. the money required by the parliament, *i.e.*,

"The 20th part of theyr personall estate, and the 5th part of one yeare's rent of land, for which they shall have the publique faith of the kingdome."

The persons that were to advance moneys according to this order, were John and Thomas Harrison, of Aldridge, John Adcock, of Nether Stonnell, &c.

At a court leet of John Jordan, gent., October 15, 1664,

"Yt is ordered that the constable of Barre and Aldrich for the year ensuinge, shall, at the parishe charge, sett up a sufficient payre of longe shootinge butts, in the ancient and accustomed place, where the old butts formerly stood, before the five and 20th day of March next, upon payne to forfeit y<sup>e</sup> he make defaulte, 39s."

In 1795, two separate acts parliament were obtained for enclosing the waste lands of Aldridge and Barr, comprising 2,300 acres on the Coldfield, some of which lay within the limits of the Sutton Chase.

Edward Tongue, esq., has preserved some of the fragments of conglomerate rock and granite which formed the stones, supposed to be Druidical, found in several fields near Aldridge and on the rise of the Beacon, having been split with gunpowder or otherwise, by cultivators of the land. From a neighbouring field he has also preserved a heavy globular stone, about fourteen inches in diameter, with a hollow on one surface of about nine inches in diameter, forming a perfectly smooth bason, in a stone of so hard a quality, that workmen declare their tools could not effect it.

### Great Barr,

Co. STAFFORD,

taking its name, probably, from the British word *bar*, a summit. Dr. Wilkes gives a Hebrew derivation of the name, *barrah*—to eat sacrifices—as the spot where the Druids gave notice of their ceremonies. In later times the Beacon may

have given warning of the approach of the Danes, but it has no tradition existing, except its name.

In 20 Conqueror, Drogo held of William Fitzansculph three hides in Barra. The arable land was three carucates, but none in demesne. There was one villan and one borderer, a wood with pasture, or a park, one mile in length and four quarantines in breadth. It was formerly, and then, valued at 5s. In time of king John, Barr was divided into two manors—*Magna Barr* and *Parva Barr*: one Guido held *Magna Barr*. (In 20 Edward I there was a Wyrley named Guido.) In Henry III's time a Henry held it; and in Edward II's time John Somery; and in 15 Edward II sir Robert de Stapleton, who had possessions in Aldridge, was lord of *Magna Barr*, and appears to have settled it on his wife's relations, the Birminghams. Their descendant—through de la Roche—Walter earl of Essex, in 1573, conveyed the manor, or a moiety of Barr, to William Barroll.

In 1618 William Scott is said to enjoy Great Barr. Frances Scott brought it in marriage to John Hoo, esq., from whose son, Thomas Hoo, esq., it was inherited by Joseph Scott, esq., 1791. He was created a baronet in 1800, and in his descendants it remains. His eldest son, Edward Dolman Scott, married the eldest daughter of sir Hugh Bateman, bart., who brought with her the inheritance of her father's baronetcy; and her eldest son, sir Francis Scott, was from his birth a baronet. See *Baronetage*.

The old manor house was a curious half-timbered edifice, in which the last of the name of Hoo, who was sheriff for the county lived in great affluence, and in fox-hunting style. This old hall was pulled down, and replaced by a new and handsome mansion, by sir Joseph Scott.

There is an ancient account book, containing particulars of the neighbourhood—the names of those in Aldridge and Barr who had ground set forth on the Coldfield to plough. It states that, in 1667, a strike of barley was sold at 1s.6d., and a strike of wheat at 2s.8d.; the next year a strike of barley was 1s.4d., and a strike of wheat 3s.6d.

In 1800 Barr Beacon was occupied for nearly a month by a detachment of engineers, to take the bearings of the different stations, as seen from the Beacon, for the government survey. These stations are, the Lickey Hills, Worcestershire; Walton Hill; Clay Hill; the Wrekin, Shropshire; Castle-Ring, Beaudesert, Staffordshire; Weaver Hill; Orpit, Derbyshire; Sutton, Notts; Hollyhill; Bardon, Leicestershire;

Corley; Asbury Hill, Northamptonshire; Epwell, Oxfordshire; and Camden, in Gloucestershire.

Across the ridge of the Beacon, in a direct line between the "teste de Bourne," and the Holbrook, must be sought the ancient land marks of Bottestile, Tindit-hoc, and Mose-wall, which were there the boundaries of the Sutton Chase.

### Perry Barr,

CO. STAFFORD,

called so, perhaps, in early times from its fruit trees (*per* and *perain*, Br. pear trees). In Domesday, Drogo held of William Fitzansculph, lord of Dudley, three hides in Pirio. About king John's time one Henry de Pirie was lord of it. Afterwards William Wirley gave to Philip, his son and heir, all his lands, tenements, &c., in Pirie, Parva Barra, and Ascote (or East Cot), &c., from which there appears to have been a distinction between the lands of Perry and Little Barr.

In 25 Edward I, John, lord of Little Barre, had license from the earl of Warwick to enclose his woods, being within the bounds of Sutton Chase, for which he was to pay six barbed arrows at the manor house at Sutton.

In 20 Edward III, John de Perry held of William de Birmingham the village of Perry, by service of a knight's fee, £10.

In 9 Henry VIII, Eustace Fitz Herbert, esq., died lord of Perry and Sutton Coldfield. One of his daughters and co-heirs carried these by marriage to Thomas Smith, gent., son of sir T. Smith, baron of the exchequer, and they, in 1546, sold Perry Hall and land to sir William Stamford, knight, attorney-general. It is stated that during the Civil Wars, in the time of Charles I, these estates of his descendant, Edward Stamford, esq., were sequestered by the rebel army for their own use, he being a recusant, *i.e.*, loyal to the king, in whose service he was a colonel. But they granted out of the lands a small maintenance to his wife, and allowed her to remain at a rent in her own house of Perry Hall. Edward Stamford afterwards took the covenant, 1646, that he might compound. One of his sons sold Perry Hall to sir Henry Gough, knight, 1669.

The family of Gough trace their pedigree from Inneth Goch, possessed of land in Wales, time of Henry I. Several of the Goughs were active in the wars of the English kings in France, especially Matthew Gough, from 1424 to 1450. The historian Speed says—"This esquire of Wales, Matthew

Gough, was a man of excellent virtue, manhood, and zeal for his country, and of great renown in the wars in France, where he served upwards of twenty years." In 1450 he was appointed to help the mayor of London to defend the city against the insurgents headed by Cade. He was posted on London Bridge, which the rebels attacked by night, and he was killed whilst defending it.

In the time of the Civil Wars, king Charles I was entertained at Wolverhampton by Mr. Henry Gough, who also received as his guests prince Charles and the duke of York. A subscription in aid of the royal cause was liberally carried on in the town, but the committee thought they had failed in their application to the wealthy and loyal Mr. Gough. However, the same evening, he obtained a private audience of his majesty, and prayed his acceptance of a purse, which, it is said, contained £1,200, and added that it was all the cash in his house, or he should have offered more.

His liberality and loyalty were not sinister. He declined the honour of knighthood. That was conferred on his grandson, Henry Gough, of Perry Hall, by Charles II; and his descendant, Henry Gough, born 1749, was created baron Calthorpe, 1796, in whose descendants the manor and estate remain.

### Witton,

CO. WARWICK.

This was the freehold of one Staunchel before the Norman invasion; but afterwards, being disposed of, with Aston, to William Fitzansculph, Staunchel became tenant to this new lord, as generally the native English were constrained to do. It then contained one hide, valued at 20s., and was written Witone. Andrew de Wicton held it, 25 Henry III, when he had a dispute with William de Pyrie respecting boundaries. Upon which the king directed the sheriff of Warwickshire to bring with him twelve discreet and lawful knights of this county, so that a perambulation might be made, and the bounds certified at the next assize. There it is written *Wicton*, as derived from the bend of the river.

In 19 Edward I, John Dyxele held it by the eighth part of a knight's fee. A descendant passed away most of the manor to Richard de Pyrie. In 47 Edward III it was held by William de la Hay and Marion his wife, and afterwards by Thomas East, yeoman of the crown, who, in 5 Henry VI, enjoyed it; who had a son, Thomas; and he a son, Henry East,

of Hay Hall, in Yardley; who sold it to John Bond, a rich draper, of Coventry; and by one of his daughters it was sold, 15 Elizabeth, to Edward Kynardsley, esq., who had married another sister. Their son John alienated the manor to William Booth, esq., an outer barrister of the Middle Temple, descended from the Booths in Cheshire, and one who assisted Dugdale in his antiquarian researches.

### Erdington

in former days was popularly pronounced Yenton, or Yernton, and, as the commuting of the *g* into *y* was common to our predecessors, the name was probably from two words, *gardd* and *inge* (British) becoming *gyrd* and *inge* (Saxon) enclosed meadows, at first, on the border of the Tame. Dugdale thinks it took its name from some Saxon possessor of the name of Harding, as in Domesday it was written Hardington.

Before the Norman invasion, Edwine, earl of Mercia, was owner of this town; but the Conqueror gave it to William Fitzansculph, baron of Dudley. It was estimated at three hides, valued at 30s, having a mill rated at 3s (perhaps at the site of Bromford Forge), and woods one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. The barons of Dudley owned it till king Stephen's time. Then, or early in Henry II's time, it was granted to Henry, surnamed de Erdington, on account of his residence here, by Gervais Pagnall, to hold by the service of a knight's fee, to whose descendants, in the male line, it continued till Edward IV's time; and being their principal seat, was strongly fortified with a large double moat on the front and two sides, having the river for a defence at the back. Within this moat was a chapel, peculiar to the house, the ruins of which were seen in the middle of the 17th century. In 6 John, Thomas de Erdington was sheriff for Salop and Staffordshire. Between him and the rector of Aston there was a dispute respecting his private chapel, which was terminated by agreement, that the said parson should receive the tithe of all the profit from Aston mill; and that the mother church of Aston should not lose any tithe or oblation through this chapel; that the family of Erdington should repair to Aston church on the principal feast days; and on that of St. Peter and St. Paul bring with them three wax tapers, weighing 2lbs. This Thomas was chamberlain to king John, and received many great favours from him, which had not the effect of rendering him true to the King of kings, as opportunity unhappily proved. From royal bounty he received

the manors of Kington and Norton, and in 14 John, the lordships of Wellington and Shawbury in Salop: and was so much in the confidence of John that the next year, 1213, he, with Ralph Fitz Nicholas, was secretly sent on a mission to "Admiralius Murmelius, great king of Aphrica, Marrochia, and Spain," to propose that John should surrender the kingdom of England to this Moor, and hold it of him at a certain tribute; and also forsake the Christian religion for that of Mahomet, provided the Mahommedan sovereign would assist him against his turbulent barons: an embassy which would have been resisted with horror by any true Christian patriot. After his return from this errand of treason to God and his country, he was rewarded with other manors. Nevertheless his needy master engaged him to pay 5,000 marks for the guardianship of the orphan son of Robert Fitzalan, a great Shropshire baron; and for leave to marry his daughter to the young noble: possibly a transaction of as selfish a character in private life, as his participation in national concerns was destitute of principle. In 17 John, he was commanded to hasten with some forces to Tamworth Castle, to bring out of it all the prisoners' horses, arms, and ammunition, and to pull it down to the ground: we cannot find that the sentence was executed. His son, Giles, was a large benefactor to monasteries, that the monks might pray and sing for himself, his ancestors, and successors, to the world's end; and that after his decease his name should be registered in the martyrology, and his anniversary duly kept in as ample a manner as for their patron saint.

His son Henry succeeded him, who, in 5 Edward I was with William de Beauchamp, in his wars in Wales, and there knighted. He married Maud de Someri, who was descended from Roger de Someri, 5 Stephen, and from Ranulph de Meschines, viscount of Baieux, who married Lucy, daughter of Algar, earl of Leicester, and sister of Edwin, earl of Mercia, and Morcar, earl of Northumbria. He gave to the nuns of Catesby the perpetual patronage of the church at Yardley, that a canon might celebrate mass daily to the world's end, for himself and wife, and his father, with all their ancestors and successors. His widow, Maud, married without license from the king, and had to pay £100 for her pardon.

In the time of Edward II, Henry his son had many royal commissions, amongst them, that of raising men and arms in this county for the wars in Scotland. He gave 60s. per

annum to his private chaplain. It is probable that he built the south aisle in Aston Church, called Erdington Chancel. His descendants served in the wars, and as sheriffs and knights of the shire. One of them, Giles, received a pardon for not appearing to be knighted, 10 Edward III. Another, Thomas, though much employed by Henry VI, preferred the claims of the House of York, and in Edward the Fourth's greatest difficulties, declared in his favour. The vassals of Erdington would be called out against their neighbours of Sutton; but there is no evidence that these fields and groves were stained by civil strife. For his services Edward granted him the manor of Bordesley for life. He founded a chantry in Aston Church, and was the last of his family that possessed this place.

The next owner, for whom there is authority, was George duke of Clarence; after which it came to one Robert Wright, who passed it, 11 Henry VII, to sir Reginald Bray, *knt.*, whose nephew sold it to sir Francis Englefield, *knt.*, from whom, in 4 Edward VI, it was purchased by H. Dimock, *esq.*, after the death of whose sons it was possessed by their sister, who married sir Walter Earle, of Charborow, who sold it in 1 Charles I to sir Walter Devereux, *bart.*, who sold it to sir Thomas Holte, *bart.*, whose hall at Aston was cannonaded, and whose family papers there were destroyed by the parliament troops in 1643. His descendant, Charles Holte, *esq.*, who became the last baronet after the death of his brother, sir Lister Holte, resided chiefly at Erdington Hall, and built the large room there. His only daughter and heiress married Abraham Bracebridge, *esq.*, of Atherstone.

At the partition of the Holte estates, in the year 1817, Erdington Hall and Manor were taken by Wriothesley Digby, *esq.*, and they were afterwards bequeathed by him to the only grand-daughter of the late sir Charles Holte, Mrs. Walter Henry Bracebridge, the present proprietor, with remainder to Charles Holte Bracebridge, *esq.*, her brother.

Pipe, now known as Woodend, a manor within the precincts of Erdington, was anciently possessed by one William Maunsel, sheriff for this county and Leicestershire, time of Henry III, and having other commissions. From him it came into the family of Pipe; and at length to Thomas Pipe, abbot of Stoneley, and the abbey sold it to Thomas de Beauchamp, earl Warwick, with the rest of whose lands it was seized by the crown, 3 Henry VII. In 36 Henry VIII it was granted to sir William Staunford, one of the justices of the king's

bench, and by him sold to John Butler, citizen of London : his son sold it to Edward Holte, esq., 11 Elizabeth, and he to Francis Dimock, esq., and his heir to sir William Devereux, bart., together with Erdington ; after which it was purchased by sir Thomas Holte.

Within the precincts of Erdington there has been a family of the Massys (descended from those of Cheshire), which, by marriage of an heir female, of Holden, first settled here in Henry VI's time. Of these John was a justice of the peace in this county, the latter end of Henry VIII's reign, and had issue Hugh, and he John, which last John, wasting his estate by excess, was the last that had to do here.

In 1801 an act was passed for inclosing waste lands in Erdington.

### Berwood,

from *bearw*, *bearwas*, Sax., a woody place. This being involved originally with Curdworth, is not at all mentioned in Domesday Book, nor noticed till Henry the Second's time, when Hugh de Arden gave it to the canons of Leicester : "The place of Berwda, with the exarts and meadows, and all pertaining to it, in the wood and in the open, and all that part of its groves which is between the stream of Ebroc and the stream of the Tame, with the island of Wychesholm (flag island, from the abundance of the yellow iris), as far as the bounds of Erdinton, with the paunage and all liberties." Which grant was confirmed by William and by Waleran, earls of Warwick, it being of their fee, with all the rest of Arden's lands here. Thomas de Arden also gave some small parcels of land here to those canons.

There was anciently a chapel of the Blessed Virgin belonging to those canons, long since decayed ; for as early as the beginning of Henry the Fourth's time it was certified that there was only a hall, with chambers and buttery, bakehouse, and other rooms. To support this chapel sir William de Arden, knight, had given to Robert Abbott, of Leicester, and his successors, one messuage, one mill (probably on the river, at Castle Bromwich bridge, where one still stands), and a large portion of land lying in Curdworth, that two canons might be found to celebrate divine service therein for the health of his soul, and the souls of his predecessors and heirs ; but this, together with the manor of Berwood, as also the rectory of Curdworth, appropriated to these canons, was, after the dissolution of the monasteries, purchased from the crown by



Thomas Arden, of Park Hall, and Simon his younger son, for the sum of £272. 10s., to be held of the king by the twentieth part of a knight's fee paying the yearly rent of 30s. 4d. into the exchequer. This inheritance became vested in William Arden, his eldest son and his heirs male; in whose family it continued till the death of Robert Arden, esq., 1643, when it fell to the share of Dorothy, one of his sisters and co-heirs, who married, time of Charles II, Hervey Bagot, esq., second son of sir Hervey Bagot, knight, in whose family it still remains.

In 2 Henry VIII, the king, in his right over the ancient chase of Sutton, granted the custody of the outwoods of Berwood to John Blakenhall; and, in 3 Elizabeth, William Blakenhall granted the same to Richard Greaves. The last waste ground here was that of the Hollyhurst Common, near the Birmingham and Sutton high road, which was inclosed 1808-9.

### Pipe Hayes,

an ancient mansion on a part of the Berwood estate, which estate came from the Ardens by marriage of Dorothy Arden to the second son of sir Hervey Bagot, in whose descendants it remains.

### Minworth.

*Maenawr*, Br., signifies a manor or district marked out, or walled round with stone boundaries; *weorth*, Sax., a farm, especially near a river.

Before the Conquest this was the freehold of one Godric, and in the Conqueror's time it was possessed by Turchill de Warwick, and was certified to contain one hide, the woods extending to half a mile in length and three furlongs in breadth, all valued at 5s. It is there written *Meneword*. It continued in the Arden family till the attainder of Edward Arden, 27 Elizabeth; then it was given by the crown to Edward Darcey, esq. That part north of the river had been impaled as a park to Park Hall by this Edward Arden; but before his son Robert could recover it from Darcey all the trees had been cut down and removed.

### Curdworth,

anciently written *Croddeswyrth*, *Cruddeuwyth*, and *Credeworth*. *Curt* is ancient British for a court, or a circular mound, and the letter *r* was forcibly uttered. Dugdale conjectures from the spelling that it received its name from a Saxon possessor of the common name of *Creda*.

It includes in its parish Minworth, Berwood, and Dunton. Before the Conquest one Ulvinus had it. In the Conqueror's time it was possessed by Turchill de Warwic, and by the general survey was certified to contain four hides; the woods being half a mile in length and as much in breadth, and all valued at 50s.

That most ancient family resided here, whose surname of Arden was assumed from this part of the country north of the Avon, called *Arden*, or perhaps more properly *Ardern*, from the British etymology *Arderwn*, abounding in oaks—the Kelts so employing the word, which Cæsar says was *Arduen* in Gaul.

Turchill and his descendants had their principal seats at Kingsbury, Hampton-in-Arden, Rotley, and Rodburn, while several male branches lasted, but this place continued longer in their family.

Hugh de Arden gave to the canons of Leicester one messuage, one mill, two carucates of land, 60 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, 300 acres of wood, and 10s. rent, with advowson of the church here, besides his manor of Berwood and a hermitage there.

Fines for rebellion, time Henry III, occasioned sir Thomas Arden, knt., to pass the inheritance of all his lands here to Hugh de Vienna, and to Thomas de Arden, of Hanwell, and Rose, his wife, whose son, sir John Arden, knt., a powerful man in the county in 33 Edward III, impleaded the abbot of Leicester for the manor of Berwood, with the advowson of the church at Curdworth; on which the abbot, fearing partiality in hearing the cause, for it was to be tried at Warwick, procured the king's letter to the judges of this circuit, sir John de Mowbray and Thomas de Hingylby, requiring them that he might have equal right; by which means the verdict passed for the abbot. His daughter and heir, Rose, released to her uncle, sir Henry Arden, all her interest in the lands of Curdworth, Minworth, Sutton, and Moxhull, of her father's inheritance; but this was lost to the family by the unmerited attainder of Edward Arden, time of Elizabeth, and given to Edward Darcey, esq., and his heirs. Edward Arden's son, Robert, recovered all but Curdworth and Minworth. In after times four co-heiresses of Edward Darcey, esq., of Newhall, co. Derby, (descended from the Edward Darcey of Elizabeth's reign), shared this manor between them. At the present time it is divided between the right hon. Charles Bowyer Adderley, B. P. G. C. Noel, esq., and the rev. William Wakefield, M.A.

Within this manor of Curdworth in 31 Edward I, the abbot of Leicester, having a large proportion of land by the grant of Hugh de Arden, claimed a court leet and infangthef, with assize of bread and beer, when the jury found the claim good and allowed it; and as it appeared that in the time of the abbot Henry, a gallows had been erected, and a thief taken there had been adjudged to death, and hanged by the bailiff of the abbot, the same privilege was again allowed.

The church dedicated to St. Nicholas was given to the canons of Leicester, in time of Henry II; it was valued in 19 Edward I, at seven and a half marks, but the vicarage at no more than two marks, which, in time of Henry VIII, was certified to be worth 100s. per annum; above 10s. were deducted for procurations and synodals. Patrons (alternately) the right hon. Charles Bowyer Adderley, B. P. G. C. Noel, esq., and the rev. W. Wakefield, M.A.

In 1730 it is stated, "there are here twenty houses and about six teams."

In 37 Henry VI, 1458-9, the bishop of the diocese, taking into consideration that the bridge was out of repair, granted a special *indulgence*, of forty days, to all the inhabitants of the archdeaconry of Coventry, who should, within three years, charitably contribute to its repair; but it does not appear that the bridge was then of stone, if so, the *indulgence* had not secured a solid construction, for in less than 100 years afterwards bishop Vesey is said to have built both this bridge and that at Water Orton, at his own charge, with stone brought from the manor house of Sutton. This bridge at Curdworth was pulled down in 1836, having stood three centuries, and was replaced by one built at the expense of the county.

The village has much rural beauty in its scenery, and lies amongst banks and knolls, which might be chosen for habitation and defence at a remote period.

A battle was fought here between the parliament troops and the royalists, time of Charles I.

### Moxhull,

anciently written *Mukeshull*, may have a British origin in *mwswgyl*, signifying *moss*.

Though in the parish of Wishaw, it seems to have been originally a member of Curdworth, for it is evident the Ardens held it immediately of the earls of Warwick: but the de Lisles owned it more than 400 years, and had it first from one of the Ardens, lords of Curdworth. The family name

was spelt *del Yle*, in the time of Henry II, and ranked among the superior gentry of the country. Anketel de Lisle did homage to Philip Marmion, lord of Tamworth Castle, for the lands in Middleton, which he had with his wife, the heiress of Robert de Blaggreve. His son Henry was termed by Ralph, lord Basset, of Drayton, "*Nostre chiere et bien ame vadlet*,"\* In 18 Edward II, he served in the parliament as a knight for the shire, having 2s. 6d. allowed him per day for his expenses. But in 1 Edward III (1273), upon a strong suspicion of heresy, suggested to the king against him, on the 3rd of May, a commission was issued to William de Clinton, not only to arrest him, but to seize all his lands, goods, and chattels. On being made acquainted with this process he submitted himself to prison, and brought in sureties to stand a lawful trial. On this he was set at liberty, and his lands and goods were restored to him by the king's special precept. Opposition to church payments was sometimes treated as heresy. Had he been charged with innovations in doctrine, he would hardly have escaped so easily. After which, in 5 Edward III, the lord Basset received his full account for all the time he had served and retained to him, and gave him a general acquittance. To him succeeded John, who paid to the executors of Ralph de Arden the sum of 6s. 8d. for reasonable aid, due on the marriage of Sibil Arden, his eldest daughter, in respect of lands at Moxhull, which he held of the Ardens by military service; and at the same time 33s. 4d. for a relief for those lands.

John had a special reverence for the monks at Merivale, and desired that his body might be buried there, and assigned land and rent for wax lights to burn every Sunday and holiday in the chapel adjoining the gate of that abbey; for which he had a grant from the abbot and his convent, in 1359, of a portion of ground within that chapel, seven feet square, where he and Maud his wife should have sepulture.

His son John was, in time of Henry V, retained as a squire by the earl of Warwick, to serve him with one lance and one archer at the siege of Calais, for which he was to receive £20 per annum, besides his diet.

One of his descendants, John, received from queen Anne Boleyn a letter informing him of the birth of her daughter (the future Queen Elizabeth), and desiring his prayers for herself and the infant princess.

In the first year of queen Mary's reign, Thomas de Lisle

\* "Dear and well beloved esquire."

was commissioned to levy men to serve against the duke of Suffolk, and to bring them to Warwick Castle, where the queen's lieutenant, the earl of Huntingdon, was staying. He was so zealous in this service that the queen granted him a reversion of the manor of Hampton-in-Arden, for thirty-one years, at a rent of £30 to the crown; but in the patent the number of years was shortened to twenty-one, and the rent raised to £55. The pedigree ends with the co-heiresses of John de Lisle. Maria, eldest of the three sisters, brought this manor, in marriage, to sir Andrew Hacket, knt., master in chancery, son of John Hacket, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. She died in 1716, and their descendant, Andrew Hacket, esq., left Moxhull, by will, 1815, to his widow, L. Penelope, daughter of Ralph Adderley, esq., who, for her second husband, married the hon. Berkeley Noel, son of sir Gerard Noel, bart., and his wife, the baroness Barham. The hall was originally built in the 14th century.

### Wishaw

in the Conqueror's survey is written *Witscaga*, for which the following derivations offer themselves—*wista* (Saxon), half a hide of land, *shawe*, a woody slope; or *Witache* (mountain ash) and *shaw*.

Before the Conquest it had been possessed by one Ordric (Aldric?), and afterwards by William, the son of Corbucionis, who was an eminent man in his day, having eighteen lordships in this county, besides others in Berkshire and Staffordshire. He had a castle at Studley in this county, and it is thought he was sheriff for some part of the Conqueror's reign, and that his son afterwards held of the earls of Warwick some of the lands that his ancestors had possessed.

In Domesday *Witscaga* is certified to contain two hides, there being then a church, as also woods that contained three furlongs in length and one in breadth, all valued at no more than 10s., which argues that it then lay for the most part waste, as it is said to have been worth 30s. in Edward the Confessor's time. It is not recorded who possessed it afterwards till Edward the First's time. In 29 Henry II, John de Doura impleaded Robert and William de Arden for the fourth part of a knight's fee, lying in Goscote, near Studley, and in Witteshage; and the Knights Templars were anciently possessed of some lands here; for about 12 Henry III (1227-8), they granted unto Margaret de Lisle two yardland and a half lying here, and that family have long owned land within this

lordship. The Templars also continued to hold possessions here.

Their tenants were indulged with many privileges; and to facilitate the attainment of these, they were accustomed to set crosses on their houses. A fraud was in this way attempted here by one Chestershire, who, although he had no connection with the order, affixed their cross to his house, hoping to benefit by their liberality; but the Templars having gained an ill repute, their possessions were seized by the crown; and with them all the property of this covetous Chestershire passed into the king's hands.

Perhaps the Bereford's had the Templars' lands in this lordship. Of which family, Osbert, in 16 Edward I, settled, by a deed of entail, all his lands in this Wishawe, Langley, Sutton, and elsewhere upon William de Bereford, his brother. In 20 Edward II, it was found that William de Bereford held a manor here of the Hospitallers, by the service of 17d. yearly. These had succeeded to some of the possessions of the suppressed Templars. In 19 Edward III, Edmund de Bereford had a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands here; from which family it came to Hore; and from Hore to Pudsey; and from Pudsey to Jesson; and, in 1696, it was made part of the share of Elizabeth, eldest daughter and co-heiress of George Pudsey, esq., and was brought in marriage by her to Lord folliott, and by his heirs sold about the middle of the last century, when its value, under old leases, is stated to have been about £8,000.

In 1291, the church, dedicated to St. Chad, was valued at five marks: but, in 26 Henry VIII, the value was certified at 105s., over and above 9s. for procurations and synodals. In 1431, one John Harman was incumbent: patron, Robert Hore. In 1696, when the estates were divided between the heiresses of George Pudsey, esq., the patronage of the living, which is a rectory, was made alternate between the two sisters and their heirs, of whom John folliott, esq., represents the one, and Charles Holte Bracebridge, esq., the other.

### Dunton.

The name has a British origin, *Din*, as well as Danish and Saxon, signifying a fortified hill, or a fort; the first syllable seems to denote the antiquity of its occupation. The first historical notice of it is in 36 Henry III (1252), when Hugo de Mancestre had a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands here, but he had not the capital messuage, for

in 41 Henry III, Philip Luvell had the like grant, from whom the lords of this manor afterwards derived their title. This Philip appears to have been one of the king's clerks, 34 Henry III, brought into the service by sir John Mansell, his chief counsellor (at that time a William Mansell was possessed of Pipe in Erdington): but Luvell obtained a character for craft; and on account of his corrupt practices was disgraced; ere long he was restored to favour by the interference of the king's son-in-law, Alexander, king of Scotland; and was made the king's treasurer, until he again abused the royal favours by wasting the king's deer on his forests; and so was again dismissed.

This discredit, or rather this pecuniary loss, went so near to his heart, that he retired to his benefice at Hamestable, for he was a priest, and there died of disappointment in about a twelvemonth; on which the king seized his possessions until satisfaction for the frauds should be made.

His successor in this lordship, Henry Luvell, clerk, required suit to his court here of the abbot of Leicester, for a certain yardland named Monksfield: as also an oath of fealty, and other services; and whilst the difference was pending, the canons of that house passed away their title to William, son of Anketel de Bracebrigge, of Kingsbury, of whom Luvell required the same service, but, at the intercession of friends, they came to this agreement, that the said William and his heirs should pay twenty pence yearly rent, without suit of court or other service, to the lords of Dunton.

Ere long, Ralph de Gorges became lord of this manor, and with Joan his wife commenced suit, 22 Edward I, against William de Bracebrigge, concerning those lands: as also against Luvell, who, for contempt of court, found that the sheriff had command to distrain him, and compel his appearance.

Hugh de Gorges, the son of Ralph, obtained license from Guy de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, to inclose that place of wood lying within his manor of Dunton, called Clapshaw; and to make such a fence about it as that neither hart, hind, buck, nor doe, no, nor goat, might enter therein; with this proviso, that if it should not be sufficiently inclosed to keep out the earl's deer, belonging to the chase at Sutton, and that upon warning given by the earl's bailiffs, the same were not made good, within twenty days, that then it should be lawful for the earl to lay it open again; and if any of the said earl's deer, being driven by hunting, did break into it,

that the earl, or his servants, might pursue them into the said park, and there take and carry them away, without doing wilful hurt to any of the deer belonging to the same Hugh de Gorges: and for the better finding such hunted deer, that the earl's hounds might likewise enter, but no bow to be brought in with them. This concession was made about the 28th Edward I.

Afterwards sir Ralph, for he was then a knight, came to another agreement with the same earl, for cutting down his woods at Dunton, and making improvement of his waste, according to the assize of the chase, *i.e.*, that he and his heirs should have liberty to make a ditch of three and a half feet large, with a hedge upon it, not a foot and a half high: in consideration whereof, he and his heirs were to pay yearly to the earl, and his heirs, or assigns, at their Manor House at Sutton, a soar sparhawk, or 6d. at Lammas.

Shortly after he passed this lordship away to John Lovell, of Tichmarsh, his uncle, who, in 1310, sold it for £300 sterling to Hugh de Cuilly, together with all his lands in Lea, Curdworth, Minworth, and Mokshull.

This Hugh de Cuilly was lord of Radcliffe, Leicester-shire, and constable of Kenilworth castle, under Thomas, earl of Lancaster, and so was concerned in the execution of Piers Gaveston, for which, with others, he had a pardon, 7 Edward II. He resided here, and was a knight, and, in 8 Edward II, a knight for this shire in parliament: but he ended his days as prisoner of the king in Pomfret Castle, 16 Edward II (1322-3), his son being also a prisoner, at the same time, for joining with his father in the earl of Lancaster's rebellion; but the son was discharged on payment of a fine, and finding security for good conduct.

In 37 Edward III, Thomas de Cuilly, a descendant, obtained license from Thomas, earl of Warwick, to cut and fell timber in his wood, called Clapshaw, with proviso, that it should be for the defence thereof, till the spring were grown up, according to the custom of this chase. The male line failing, the manor was sold, 1422, by the son of the female heir, sir Richard Stanhope, knt., to Nicholas Ruggeley, esq., of Hawkshead, co. Stafford, whose ancestors were gentlemen of good note in Staffordshire. The special affection he had for hunting probably caused him to settle at Dunton; for, before he purchased that lordship, he had had the rangership of Sutton Chase for twenty years, and he continued to hold this office, under the earls of Warwick, ten



years longer, when age unfitted him for the work. In 12 Henry VI, he was amongst the knights and esquires of the county who made oath to observe the articles agreed on in the parliament then held.

There was a connection formed with bishop Vesey's relations, for Hugh Harman, his brother, married Joyce, daughter of William Ruggeley, and Jane, his wife, daughter of — Massey; and Joice, the daughter of Hugh Harman, by his first wife, Amicia, married John Massey (of Erdington, J.P. ?); also John Ruggeley, the son of William and Jane, married Joice, the daughter of Ralph Sheldon, esq., of Beoley, and Margaret, daughter of Hugh Harman, by his second wife, Joice Ruggeley, married Richard Sheldon.

The manor of Dunton was sold by the representatives of the Rugeley family to lord Leigh, whose descendant holds it.

### Lea,

signifies an open field. Of this place there is no mention in the Conqueror's survey, it being involved in Whitacre, and with land there, probably belonged to Turchill de Warwic, and afterwards passed to the Marmions, of Tamworth Castle. By one of them James de Launde was enfeoffed of it in time of Henry III; and in 37 Henry III he had a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands here. In 3 Edward III, John de Launde, proving that his ancestors had enjoyed a court leet here, with assize of bread and beer, and other liberties belonging, obtained a charter from the king to confirm them, with infangtheft, tumbrell, and pillory. The manor was passed, in 44 Edward III, to Sir Baldwin Trevill, knt., and came, by one of his co-heiresses, to her husband, Thomas Ferrers, in whose line it continued until about the beginning of Charles the First's reign, when it was sold by sir John Ferrers, knt., to Charles Adderley, esq., afterwards equerry to the same king, and by him knighted. In his family it has since continued, and is now the property of the right honourable Charles Bowyer Adderley, whose residence, at Hams, is within the parish.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was anciently given to the nuns of Mergate, co. Beds; but in 26 Henry III, James de la Launde recovered the right of presentation. In 36 Henry III, for 57 marks of silver, he quitted to them his claim, and the curate there became a stipendiary to the convent.

## Marston.

from the word *mere*, or *marsh*, was possessed by Turchill de Warwic, in the Conqueror's time, and then rated at three hides, valued at thirty shillings, at that time held of him by one Roger, but ere long it came to the Marmions, for in 20 Henry III, Robert Marmion answered for half a knight's fee, at which time it went by the name of Merston-Marmion. It appears as if the Marmions were only superior lords of the fee, for at that time the Limesis of Maxstoke held it immediately of them; and the Odingsells, who had inherited by marriage from the Limesis, had fourteen tenants here and at Cotes, 23 Edward IV, paying 36s.8d. rent yearly: by an heir female it came to Clinton, and from sir John Clinton, in exchange, to Humphrey, earl of Stafford, 16 Henry VI, as a member of Maxstoke.

## Hemlingford.

from *holm*, an island, and *inge*, a meadow (Sax.). This place, whence the Hundred takes its name, is the ford over Tame, somewhat more than a "flight shoot" southward from Kingsbury Church. Anciently Coleshill gave the name to the Hundred, as in the Conqueror's survey: and the three weeks' court held for the Hundred was continued there.

It is probable that the original occasion of calling the inhabitants to this place was, that some of the Ardens, whose seat was at Kingsbury, when they were sheriffs for the county, found the vicinity convenient for the meeting of the hundreders.

This name of the Hundred is first mentioned 8 Henry II (1162), when Ralph Basset, then sheriff, accounted for certain money paid out of the Hundred as amercement for murder; and after this, 21 Henry II, fifteen marks were accounted to the king for three murders in the *Sithesoca* (that is, a company's privilege) of *Humiliford*.

The name of the river Tame is from *Tav*, or *Tam* (British), overflowing.

Kingsbury was a seat of some of the Mercian kings, pleasantly situated on a cliff overhanging the right bank of the river, on the other border of which spread rich meadows and the Sutton forest. The countess Godiva held it in the Confessor's days, and after the Conquest Turchill de Warwic, in right of his second wife, Leverunia, whose inheritance it was, and their descendant, Amicia Arden, inheriting it, married Peter de Bracebrigge, so called from his possessions in

Lincolnshire. It remained in the family of Bracebridge until the time of Elizabeth.

In the time of Henry V, Ralph de Bracebridge leased the manor house, park, and pools, of Sutton, from the earl of Warwick. See "The Manor House," Sutton, p. 51.

### Middleton

probably received its name from its situation between places of Saxon royal, or vice-regal resort, Tamworth, Kingsbury, Sutton. It is mentioned in Domesday, first under the title of the lands there belonging to Hugh de Grentemaisnill, where it is rated for four hides, having a church, as also a mill, esteemed at 20s., which, with the rest, were all valued at £6, having been the inheritance of one Pallinus, in Edward the Confessor's time. It is next mentioned under the title of lands belonging to Adeliz, the wife of the said Hugh, when the quantity and value in the gross sum do not differ; but there it is said to have been the freehold of one Turgot, before the Conquest: after which, ere long, it was disposed of to one of the Marmions (if we may believe the ancient windows of the church, and some other authorities), by the Conqueror himself. By an account of the revenues of the Templars, taken 31 Henry II, it appears they had lands here granted by Geffry Marmion; in which family it continued whilst the male line lasted. Philip Marmion, in 13 Edward I, claiming by prescription a court leet and gallows here, which were allowed, as also free warren within his demesne lands of this place, but to this the jury answered, that the earls of Warwick had free chase within the same, taking forfeitures for all offences done therein and that the said Philip had no warren, except by grant from Ela, countess of Warwick, only for term of her life: whereupon he was amerced for his undue challenge. He also disputed with her common of pasturage, perhaps in this neighbourhood.

But this Philip Marmion, dying without male issue, his lands were divided between several co-heirs, of which Alexander Frevill and Joan his wife, Ralph Boteler the elder, with Maud his wife, and Henry Hillary and Joan his wife, had their particular shares in this manor, until at length sir Baldwin Frevill obtained by purchase Hillary's part. After this he procured license from Scroope, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, about 1390, to have a private chapel within his manor house here. Boteler's part appears to have been united to the rest before 1452, when a partition was made between the

sisters and heirs of the last sir Baldwin Frevill; for by that it appears that Margaret, the youngest of them, had (*inter alia*) the whole of this manor of Middleton, as parcel of her share, she being then the wife of Richard Bingham, one of the justices of the king's bench, and afterwards a knight. He resided here till he died, 1475 (15 Edward IV), being joined in all commissions of peace, and other matters of importance, with the superior gentlemen of this county. She continued a widow to a great age, making a presentation to the church of Preston Bagot, 1504-5. To her succeeded in the inheritance of this lordship, sir Henry Willoughby, knt., her grandson by her first marriage with sir Hugh Willoughby, of Wollaton, knt. Sir Henry was made a banneret at the Battle of Stoke, June 11, 2 Henry VII. This distinction is accounted so honourable that a knight made on the field of battle is allowed to display his arms in the king's army as barons do, and he may bear arms with supporters. In 4 Henry VII, he was a commissioner in this county for appointing archers to the relief of Brittany, as also a Knight of the Sepulchre. He died 1528. His sons were sir John Willoughby, knt., his heir, sir Edward Willoughby, knt., and sir Hugh Willoughby, knt., who gained a melancholy celebrity in his navigation of the north seas, in the two last years of king Edward VI's reign. In 1553, under the direction of Sebastian Cabot, then "Governor of the Myserie and Company of the Merchants Adventurers for the Discoverie of Regions Unknown," three ships were fitted out for the discovery of a north-east passage to China, and were placed under command of sir Hugh Willoughby. His instructions consisted of thirty-three articles, in which Christian principles were declared the source of duty—morning and evening prayers—the reading of the scriptures—and other religious exercises were required to be observed in the ships. There were also strict regulations against "carding, dicing, and such other divelish games:"

"Item 30. If you shall see any people weare lyons or beares skinnes, having long bowes and arrowes, be not afraid of the sight, for such be worn often times more to feare strangers than to any other end."

The young king Edward, interested in whatever might enlarge the intelligence of his people, and more especially in all that might conduce to the diffusion of gospel truth amongst mankind, wrote in English, Greek, Latin, and other languages, to all the kings inhabiting the north-east parts of the world towards the mighty empire of Cathay, *i.e.*, the north of China.

Sir Hugh sailed from Deptford May 11, 1553; his journal

then commences. The vessels encountered much severe weather, and were separated. Sir Hugh, with two vessels, was obliged to find a harbour for the winter on the coast of Lapland, near Kezor, where he and most of his company were alive in the following January, 1554, as is shewn by written papers found in the vessels. But in the next year the two ships were discovered by some Russian fishermen; and the sad spectacle presented itself of their commander and seventy men frozen to death. The written documents revealed something of their melancholy story.

Sir Francis Willoughby built the mansion at Wollaton; he died 38 Elizabeth; and the male line failing, this manor was allotted to Bridget, his eldest co-heiress, who married sir Perceval Willoughby, knt., descended from the Willoughbys of Eresby. Their son and heir, sir Francis Willoughby, knt., married Cassandra, daughter of the earl of Londonderry, and by her had one son and two daughters, which son, Francis, was possessed of much talent and virtue. He was born 1635; he passed with credit through Trinity College, Cambridge; and afterwards, in conjunction with his college friend, the rev. John Ray, fellow of Trinity College, prosecuted the study of natural history with unremitting ardour. Observing that the investigation of animated nature had been neglected in England, he made that his department, whilst Mr. Ray undertook the vegetable kingdom. They travelled much in this country and on the continent to make collections. Mr. Willoughby was the first naturalist who treated the study of birds as a science, and the first who made any thing like a rational classification in zoology. The systems adopted by Ray, and also by Linnæus, were originated by him. Dr. Barrow was one of his friends, and observed that he never knew a gentleman of such ardour after real learning and knowledge, and such capacity for any kind of mental acquirement. He died at Middleton, 1672, in the 37th year of his age. He left two sons and a daughter. His works were *Ornithologiæ*, in 3 vols. folio, and *Historiæ Piscium*, folio, with Papers in the *Philosophical Transactions*. His friend, Mr. Ray, edited and published the two former works after the death of the author. Mr. Ray had spent much time at Middleton, and Mr. Willoughby left him an annuity, and made him one of his executors, and a guardian of his children during their education. He, therefore, continued for some time to reside at the hall, and married whilst there. Mr. Ray was the son of a blacksmith at Black-

Netley, in Essex. In 1649 he obtained a fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge, and after the Restoration he was ordained by the bishop of Lincoln, 1660; but in 1662, not being able, conscientiously, to sign the declaration imposed that year, "that such persons as had taken the oath of the Solemn League and Covenant, were under no obligation to that oath," he was deprived of his fellowship, and disqualified from holding any ecclesiastical office. In 1667 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, and he contributed to its papers many of his observations. After 1676 he ceased to reside at Middleton Hall, and for a short time took up his abode at Sutton Coldfield, before he retired to spend the remainder of his life at his native place in Essex. Amongst his numerous writings are *A Catalogue of English Plants*, *The Wisdom of God Manifested in the Works of Creation*, and *Synopsis Methodica Animalium Quadrupedum*. He died January, 1705.

The daughter of Mr. Willoughby married the duke of Chandos. His eldest son, Francis, was created a baronet by Charles II, at the age of ten years, as a compliment to his father; but he died before he was twenty. Thomas, the younger son, was one of the ten peers created on the same day, 1711, by queen Anne, and received the title of baron Middleton, of Middleton. The manor and estates continue in this family. See *Peerage*. The hall, an ancient building, still retains its moat.

### Drayton Basset,

CO. STAFFORD.

Its situation on the river Tame and near the Roman road, Watling Street, renders it probable that an ancient village or mansion (in the Celtic tongue, *Tref*, or *Tray*, in composition) gave the first syllable to this Saxon *hamlet* and manor. The stream which flows through it, and here joins the Tame, has obtained no more distinctive name than Bourne, or Blackbrook. In the time of Edward the Confessor, this lordship belonged to Algar, earl of Mercia, whose son, Edwine, lost it by endeavouring to oppose William the Conqueror. At the time of the Conquest, Turstine de Basset resided here, and had five hides here. He was the founder of several noble families. At the survey, the king had four hides here, which came to Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester. His daughter, Geva, wife of Heury Riddel, justice of England, time of Henry I, possessed it. She founded the

monastery at Canwell. Her daughter inherited this manor, and married Richard, son of Ralph Basset, chief justice of England, and the grandson of Turstine Basset.

About the beginning of John's reign, the lord Basset of Drayton, a great baron in these parts, enclosed a park out of the Sutton Chase, for which he had to come to an agreement with the earl of Warwick, as related under "Sutton Chase." In 48 Henry III (1363-4) he was in arms with Simon Mountfort, and other barons, for the recovery of their liberties, and was killed at the battle of Evesham, after having rejected the proposition of Mountfort, to leave the kingdom until better times.

One of his successors, Ralph Basset, when steward of Aquitaine, 15 Edward II, acted so well for the English interests, that the king of France endeavoured, but in vain, to expel him by force or by negociation, from the possessions of the king of England in France.

Ralph, the last lord Basset, was, time Edward III, eminent in wars, and was the forty-fifth Knight of the Garter. In 4 Richard II, he was in the retinue of the earl of Buckingham in France, with 200 men-at-arms and 200 archers, and rode with his banner displayed. He is reputed to have slain a wild boar on Basset's Heath; his tomb and effigy were in Lichfield Cathedral, but were destroyed by the parliament army, time of Charles I. By his will he left that whosoever should first bear his surname and arms should have his great velvet bed for life. His aunts became his heirs; and the first earl of Stafford, his cousin, received Drayton for his inheritance, and it remained in his posterity until the attainder of its owner, Edward duke of Buckingham, 13 Henry VIII (1521). It then escheated to the crown; and the king made a long lease of it to George Robinson, a rich mercer of London. He married, for his first wife, Ann Levison, daughter of John Levison, of Sutton Coldfield, and Amicia Harman, his wife, a sister of bishop Vesey. Their son, Nicholas, died without issue. By his second wife, Joan, he had a son, William, who was mixed up with a crime and tragedy at Shirford, in which an old gentleman was strangled by a young wife. For this murder she was burned to death, in the first year of queen Mary's reign. William Robinson's son Thomas wasted his inheritance, and mortgaged or sold Drayton to Richard Paramore, a Londoner, who had much trouble and suit about it, and on October 4, 1578, Robinson's servants forcibly entered Drayton House. To oppose this violent proceeding, lord Stafford, sir Ralph

Egerton, Mr. Bagot (the sheriff), and 7,000 people, beat down part of the premises with cannon! and obliged them to surrender, when they found three men within the house, whom they sent to Stafford gaol. Not liking further trouble in this matter, Paramore passed over his interest in the lordship to the earl of Leicester, Robert Dudley, whom few dared to disturb. He left it to his countess, who, by her first marriage with the *good* earl of Essex, was mother of queen Elizabeth's favourite. She lived to see the grandchildren of her own grandchildren, and died in 1634. Though her son Robert never possessed the estate, he frequently visited his mother there. In 1597, she wrote to him that if he wished to see her in London, he must send some coach horses to fetch her, as her own would not be able to draw her out of the mire.

In the Tamworth parish register is a note, dated 1598:

"Mem: That the 30th day of April, Robert El of Essex went from Drayton Bassett towards Ireland, with a hoste of men, to make warre against the Earl of Tyrone, an Irishman."

His well known history was concluded by the axe (1600), in the thirty-fourth year of his age, and the last of Elizabeth's reign.

Robert, his son, was born 1590, and on the accession of James I was restored to the honours of his father. He became the youthful associate of Henry prince of Wales, and excelled in many diversions and mental accomplishments. From his youth he was in favour of church reform, and his natural temper seems to have been no improvement on the impetuous one of his father. He was unfortunate in his matrimonial choice, and was twice divorced. He went abroad and gained a celebrity in arms, and afterwards devoted himself to study and the patronage of the fine arts. Arthur Wilson, the historian of James I, was, as a young man, in the service of the earl of Essex, whose grandmother was then residing at Drayton; he writes—

"My lord would ride very hard, and loved it extremely; he was an excellent horseman: fore score, or a hundred miles a day, I have often ridden with his lordship. Going from Drayton, in Staffordshire, to the earl of Hartford's house, in Wiltshire, the lord Cromwell being with him, they dined at Warwick. And the said lord had a constitution that hee could not settle his stomach till hee had enough to overlay his head. As soone as wee had passed the towne stones to spare their feet, our horses had the feeling of our heeles. My lord Cromwell putt for it (being well horsed and armed) with such fury, that hee made my horse run away with mee; at the bridge, a mile beyond Warwick, the waters were out; my lord of Essex took up before he came to them, being on a well guided horse: my lord Cromwell had a strong horse, which plunged, with much adoe, through the water. I rid upon a barbarie, which I could not command—a fiery nag—and being parted by the water, and he not able to go through with it, nor I to stop him, wee floundered into the midst of it: and, being parted by the waters, wee shifted for ourselves, and came dropping out. But, shaking our eares, we peece againe, and away."



On the first insurrection of the Scots, the earl of Essex was made by Charles I lieutenant general of his forces, afterwards lord chamberlain, but he proved disloyal—the fruit of temper—and was appointed general of the English rebel army. He did not long command the men who, with real or feigned zeal in the cause of religion, upset those divine laws “they had no mind to,” and considered it righteous to make havoc of their neighbours’ goods, and slaughter of their persons, in order to carry out their own designs, or those of more crafty leaders. The worst characters are made instruments in the overruling hand of Providence, and do work which good men are restrained from. They pass over the earth like the harrow on the clods—with a sharp and fierce rending, but the fallow is thus laid open to the sunshine and showers, and evil roots are exposed for rejection. The earl died of disease in 1647: His son had died an infant, and his two sisters became his heirs. His manor, which he had, in fact, purchased from his grandmother’s third husband, came to his sister, the marchioness of Hertford, who devised it to her granddaughter, lady Mary Finch, wife of sir Thomas Thynne, bart., from whose family, enobled by the title of viscount and earl of Weymouth, it was purchased by the first sir Robert Peel, bart., in 1790. His son, sir Robert, the eminent statesman, built the modern, handsome, and tasteful mansion, now in the possession of the third baronet. See *Baronetage*.

The ancient hall was a curious specimen of the rudeness of our early domestic architecture. It was principally of wood and plaster (in time Henry VIII all the houses in Tamworth were built of wood); there was a rough old hall, hung round with portraits, stags’ heads, &c.; the house was quadrangular, with several little staircases, like an old college, and the rooms mostly small. Yet here the earls of Leicester and Essex frequently resided. In one of the largest bedrooms, over the chimney-piece, hung a half-length portrait of a lady, in a rich flowered dress, with large ruff, said to be queen Elizabeth; and on the opposite side a portrait (supposed to be that of the earl of Essex, the parliament general), holding in his hand a ponderous lance, on which is the motto :

“He that can this ebon lance weilde,  
Shall have the same and eke my shield.”

This picture was bought, at the time of the sale of the property, by Charles Chadwick, esq., and it has since been placed at New Hall.

Basset’s Pole, where the high roads from Tamworth and

Sutton, and from Coleshill to Lichfield Cross, formerly stood very high as a guide to the traveller over a desolate heath. The Coleshill road was, previous to the railroads, a high road from London to Liverpool.

An old poet describes a scene in this quarter between Edward IV and a tanner of Tamworth, when the king—

“ With hawke and hounde he made him bowne,  
 With horne and eke with bowe,  
 To Drayton Basset he took his waye,  
 With all his lords arrowe.  
 And he had ridden o’er dale and downe,  
 By eight o’clock in the daye,  
 When he was ware of a bold tanner  
 Come riding along the waye;  
 A faire russet coat the tanner had on,  
 Fast buttoned under his chin;  
 And under him a good cow-hide,  
 And a mare of four shilling.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 “ God speede, God speede thee, sayde our king,  
 Thou art welcome, sir, sayde hee,  
 The readiest waye to Drayton Basset,  
 I praye thee shewe to me.  
 To Drayton Basset wouldst thou goe,  
 Fro’ the place where thou dost stand?  
 The next payre of gallows thou comest unto,  
 Turn in upon thy right hand.”  
 \* \* \* \* \*

And as the witty tanner adds :

“ All daye have I ridden on Brocke, my mare,  
 And I am fasting yett.”

It may be conjectured that he was returning from a visit at a Wolverhampton fair, and met the king on the Sutton side of Basset’s Pole, where probably a gallows stood.

Basset’s Heath, consisting of 171 acres, was inclosed at the end of the last century. On the Tamworth road, across it, is a part called Carraway Head, which is perhaps a corruption of *Canoleway Head*.

### Canwell,

CO. STAFFORD,

anciently written *Canole*, *Cranewell*, *Kanewell*, *Canenvella*. A British derivation is perhaps found for it in the words *càn*, whiteness, and *gwal*, a fence or wall, or a fenced and cultivated place, or *Caenawl*, inclosing. The aspirated *c* might be corrupted to *Cranewell*.

Geva, daughter of Hugh, earl of Chester, founded a small priory here, time Henry I, having in her widowhood the neighbouring manor of Drayton.

M

In Stephen's time, Roger earl of Warwick, gave to the monks of St. Benedict, of Canwell, three virgates of land lying in Hull or Hill, within the lordship of Sutton Coldfield.

It became a poor monastery. One John was prior in the time of Henry VIII, and when it was suppressed there was only one monk in it. Cardinal Wolsey obtained it in 17 Henry VIII, to bestow on two colleges.

This manor, four messuages, and 1,500 acres, held of the king by a knight's service, were purchased by bishop Vesey from Henry VIII. In 1555 the bishop left it to his nephew, John Harman, who is said by Shaw, *History of Staffordshire*, to have died 6 Elizabeth, and left it to his daughter and heir, Sibil, a child of six years of age; but that the inquisition says it was Thomas Harman, gent., and Thomas, dying 1563-4, left it to Sibil, his daughter and heir, a child of six years of age. It is remarkable that nothing more certain has been met with respecting the family of bishop Vesey, and the transfer of this estate from them and other persons, until sir John Pershall bought it of lord Brabazon, and gave it to sir William Pershall, his younger son, who, not long after, sold it to sir Francis Lawley, bart., in whose family it still remains. He was descended from Thomas Lawley, esq., cousin and heir of John, Lord Wenlock, who was privy counsellor to king Edward IV, and Knight of the Garter. The first baronet was Thomas, created 1641; and his descendant, the late sir Robert Lawley, was created baron Wenlock in 1831. See *Peerage*.

The site of the priory is that of the stables, which have been formed out of its ruins. It was a curious old fabric, with bay-windows and other gothic ornaments, and was destroyed in the 17th century, when a tenant, in demolishing it, and in forming a pool of water below it, found as much lead in the old buildings, and in the exhumed coffins, as would defray the expenses of the work. There was in this priory an inclosed well, called St. Modena's Well; and some have thought it obtained the name of *can*, or powerful, from its supposed virtues: but that etymology wants analogy.

### Hints,

Co. STAFFORD.

The village and other principal parts were not within the boundaries of the Chase of Sutton Coldfield, for that could extend only over lands belonging to the Hints manor, which lay on the Sutton side of the Bournbrook. *Hynt*, in

British, signified a common road, the village lying on the old Watling Street. In the Conqueror's time it was held by Oswald of the bishop, as part of his barony of Lichfield. A family took its name from the place. Afterwards the Meynells had it; then the Bassets; and, in the time of Henry VIII, the Sacheverells had a part; and, in the time of Elizabeth, Ralph Floyer, esq., of the Middle Temple, purchased of the Bassets the manor house and other parts. On the death of Ralph Floyer, esq. (1793), his nephew Cawley took the name of Floyer with this manor and estate, in whose family it remains. Besides the lords of the manor, there were formerly here other families of note, as the Veres. In 1643-4, the committee at Stafford, acting for the parliament, allowed William Vere to pass through that town, on payment of £30; and in 1644, this committee ordered that Mr. Vere shall pay £5 for the present; and as the committee, there present, were unacquainted with his state, Mr. Swynfen and Captain Barbour shall add to it or diminish from the £5 as they shall think fit.

### Weeford, or Weyford,

CO. STAFFORD.

So called from the London high road crossing the Bourne, or Blackbrook. In the Conqueror's time, Raufe held the manor of the bishop, as a member of his barony of Lichfield; afterwards William de Odingsells.

In 17 Edward I, the earl of Warwick granted the bishop to make a park here of his wood, called Ash Hay, as being within Sutton Chase; and in 21 Edward I, he gave leave to William de Odingsells to hunt in the woods of Weeford, Thickbroom, and Hints. One of the Purefoys was slain near this ford in the cause of Edward IV, by sir Henry Willoughby; and sir Henry, in the same place, fought lord L'isle, and was desperately wounded.

In the time of queen Elizabeth, the family of the Wingfields possessed this manor, afterwards sir John Digby; and a Digby sold it to John Brandreth, esq.; either he or his son was one of the commission, in the reign of James I, to settle the boundaries of the adjoining parishes. Henry Brandreth was a warm partizan of the revolutionists, in the Civil War, and was one of the so called *Committee of Safety*, appointed by the rebel army, 1649, which was to exercise all the powers of a council of state, to punish opponents, to dispose of places of trust, and to treat with foreign states, &c.

In 1640, Mr. John Heath, of this place, was guaranteed by the royalists from pillage, on account of his payments to the king's army. He also received a guarantee from the parliament committee of Stafford, on payment of £50. In 1643, he was ordered to pay £50 to the parliament committee at Tamworth. In 1644, he was required to *lend* £20 to the king's garrison at Lichfield; and in 1645, to pay £50 to the same garrison: at the end of that year two successive acknowledgments of £20 each are extant; and in 1661, there was a receipt for £3 towards his majesty's cause.

Under the parliament and Cromwell, 5,000 persons had their estates sequestered; and 3,000 compounded for their estates during twelve years. This manor is in the Lawley family.

The manor of Thickbroom is not noticed in Domesday. It was held, in 24 Edward I, by William de Odingsels, as part of the bishop's barony. The Thickbrooms were a very old family here. In 13 Charles II, the Dixeys, of Sutton Coldfield and Sheldon, sold lands here adjoining to that of Ralph Thickbroom; and one Thomas Tykebroom, of Tichebroom, married Margery Harman, daughter of — Harman, and great-niece of bishop Vesey. One Thomas Thickbroom was settled at Little Hay in 1655.

Thickbroom and other lands in Weeford at length came, by purchase, into the possession of John Manley, esq., whose grandson, the present owner, has built here the handsome mansion called Manley Hall.

### Shenstone,

CO. STAFFORD,

was written in Domesday, and other ancient records, *Senestan*, which might be derived from *Segenstan*, a sign-stone, or *scynestan*, a white shining stone, marking the boundary of the county and forest.

William the Conqueror gave this manor to Roger de Montgomery, and of him it was held by Robert D'Oiley, son of the baron de Olgie, in Normandy. It came to the earls of Warwick, as superior lords, when earl Henry married the eldest of the two daughters of Henry D'Oyle. Ela, countess of Warwick, widow, gave license to sir Robert de Grendon, to inclose forty acres in the territories he held of her in Great Barr; thirty acres between Hikeyeld Street and the Haye Farm, below the town of Aston; and ten acres in the forest of the said Ela, of Sutton: for which donation he gave her a pipe of wine.

In the time of Edward II, sir Ralph de Grendon, lord of Shenstone, who held it under the earls of Warwick, granted to Hugh of the Moor, of Little Aston, in Colfeld, one acre of his waste upon the Colfeld, in fee of Shenston, rendering annually to him and his heirs 8d. of silver, for all services: witnesses were William lord of Alrewich, R<sup>do</sup>. de Pipe, Gilbert de Hince, &c.

It continued with the earls of Warwick until the attainder of Richard Neville, after which it was conveyed, compulsorily, by the heiress, his widow, with all her manors, to Henry VII. Edward VI renewed the grant to John Duke of Northumberland and earl of Warwick, who was beheaded by queen Mary; queen Elizabeth granted it to Ambrose Dudley, the good earl of Warwick, brother of the earl of Leicester. This estate having again been forfeited to the crown, by sir Robert Dudley, in James the First's time, king Charles I granted it to one Balmerino, a Scotchman, who sold the park to one Lake, and the lordship to Rowland Frith, esq., a clerk in chancery. The manor came into the possession of William Tennant, esq., time of George II, by will of the last owner, John Smith, esq.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and valued in the king's books at £6.5s.8d., was built originally soon after the Conquest, by the D'Oyleys, since which it has undergone many reparations; and in 1853, an entirely new church was built within the churchyard, having the ancient tower standing.

Robert D'Oyley, founder of Oseney Abbey, gave to it this church, with its rights and lands, previously given to St. George's Church, Oxford. Henry VIII sold the great tithes, it is thought, to the Brandreths. In the time of George the First they were bought by the rev. Richard Hill, whose nephew, Samuel Hill, esq., also obtained the advowson from the crown. This was purchased by the first Sir Robert Peel, who bought from — Leigh, esq., the manor and the great tithes.

Radley Moor was partitioned in the 17th century. The Peat Moor, containing 600 acres, was inclosed in 1800; buried trees have been found in it of some length, but scarcely a foot in diameter, said to be fir trees, and cut from the roots by the axe, the marks of which were found upon the roots still standing. As fir trees are not the natural growth of these parts, they must have been a plantation of some early date.

About the year 1620, Shenstone paid £29. 12s. hearth money, for 296 hearths.

During the Civil Wars, time of Charles I, Shenstone was much harassed by the garrisons of Stafford and Rushall house, and protected only when Lichfield was in the hands of the royalists. In general the gentry were loyal. In 1644, the parish was ordered to pay its weekly assessments as settled by the Stafford parliamentary committee.

Rowland Frith and his son were sufferers for their loyalty, and were obliged to a composition at £270.

Shaw states that certain crown rents are paid by several tenants in the parish to the Pendrill family, descended from the countrymen of that name, five brothers, who, at the peril of their own heads, and in the face of a high reward for the person of the king, preserved Charles II under their roofs, and in an oak tree, and conducted him with skilful secrecy from place to place, until at length the Staffordshire heroine, Jane Lane, assisted him, as her groom, to reach the sea coast, and escape to France.

Whilst escorted by these five heroes, in a dark night, between Boscobel and Moseley, in Staffordshire, the young king observed to one of them, the miller, that his mill horse was the dullest jade he had ever ridden; Humphry replied, "My liege, can you blame the horse to go heavily when he has the weight of three kingdoms on his back?"

Times of public difficulty strengthen and develop the noblest qualities of the human heart in the honest and single minded, whilst they render more apparent the meanness of the selfish and luxurious.

Shenstone Hall was built by the Rugeleys, and stood on the site of the stables of the present house. It belonged afterwards, in succession, to the Brandreths, to Hill, to Harwood—who took the name of Hill, and was grandfather of lord Berwick—to Cook, and to Gough.

Shenstone Park was first inclosed 20 Henry III, by one of the Grendons; it was three miles in circumference, and in Henry VIII's time was well stocked with game; but it was disparked, time Charles II. It had three lodges of entrance towards Sutton, Little Hay, and at Wood End. The Nevilles succeeded to the Grendons, afterwards Lake and Ward, — Head, — Strickson, who built the present house, and sold it about 1724 to the hon. Richard Hill, clerk, whose nephew, Rowland Hill, was created a baronet, 13 George I; for want of issue the park, advowson, and tithes, of Shenstone, went to an heir, Thomas Harwood, afterwards Hill, esq., of Terne. The family and the name of Harwood are of Saxon origin,

spelt Herwood, Horwood, or Whorwood. According to Domesday, Herewood had lands in Warwickshire and Lincolnshire previous to the Conquest. He was the son of Leofric, earl of Mercia, and was chosen by the prelates and nobles of Lincolnshire, to be general of their forces. He was called the mirror of knighthood. His descendant, Noel Hill (a Harwood), first lord Berwick, sold Shenstone Park in 1797, to Edward Grove, esq., son of William Grove, esq., sheriff for Warwickshire, 1773, in whose family it remains.

Shenstone Moss was given, by Henry D'Oyley, to the abbey of Osney, whose monks built a grange here for their residence. At the Dissolution it was granted to the Stanleys; then came, by marriage, to the Dolphins; from them, by purchase, to William Turner; then to lord Spencer Chichester; then to Henry Case, esq.

Wood End, Park Hall, was perhaps built in the reign of Charles I, by Alexander Ward, after he had purchased a part of the old park from lord Balmerino.

Footherley, in the time of Elizabeth, belonged to Francis, one of the Floyers, of Hints. It afterwards passed to Samuel Whalley, then to Lewis Buckeridge, esq., at whose death it was again sold.

### Little Aston, or Easton,

Co. STAFFORD,

so called as being due east of the old lordship of Aldridge, was written, 7 Edward IV, *Aston-in-the-Colyfield*, and, in 7 Henry VI, *Aston-upon-Colfield*. In time of Henry III, John lord of Easton, grants to Richard, son of Philip de Easton, two acres of land, with appurtenances, lying between Ykenilde Street and Schupenewi, &c. : witnesses, Nicholas de Alrewic, Robert Jordan, &c.

The Fowkes possessed this manor and seat in 1583, and of them the Ducies, originally from Normandy, bought it in the time of Charles I. Robert Ducy was a banker in London, and wealthy. He was lord mayor in 1630-1, and was created by Charles I a baronet, 1629. At the commencement of the Civil War the king borrowed from him £80,000, all of which he lost; but at his decease he left upwards of £40,000 to his children. His eldest son, William, succeeded to the baronetcy, and resided at Aston Hall; and, after his death, a third son, Richard, who twice paid towards the assessment for the royal aid; but Little Aston had been given to the youngest son, Robert, by his father, the first baronet, and in 1643, when



residing here, he was under the disagreeable circumstance of being captured, by order of the committee of Stafford, as a person no way devoted to serve the parliament's designs; and not being released until he had promised, and given a note under his hand, either to return to Stafford as a prisoner within a month, or to send the committee £100. By a female heir Little Aston was carried into the family of Moreton, from whom it was purchased by Richard Scott, esq., who built a large mansion on the estate, and married Anne, daughter of John Addyes, esq., of Moor Hall. He died 1734, aged 62; their only daughter, Mary, born 1718, married, in 1734, Andrew Hacket, esq., of Moxhull, to whom she carried Little Aston Hall, and other estates; and from the Hackets, in the time of George II, it was bought by William Tennant, esq., and by his descendant sold, in 1828, to — Leigh, esq., and by him to earl St. Vincent.

William Tennant, esq., by a mean of thirty observations on the sun and fixed stars, found the latitude of Little Aston Hall to be  $52^{\circ} 37' 26''$  north. The longitude supposed  $1^{\circ} 42'$  west.

The discovery of remarkable remains of an early British period, found on one of Mr. Tennant's estates in this neighbourhood, is related at the commencement of this work.

The hon. Edward Jervis, the present possessor, has enlarged and beautified the house, and fronted it with stone in the best style and taste.

---

# List of the Wardens

OF THE

## CORPORATION OF SUTTON COLDFIELD,

AS ANNUALLY ELECTED ON THE 2ND NOVEMBER,

*From William Gibbons, the first Warden, in the Year 1529, to November, 1859.*

A.D.  
 1529 William Gibbons  
 1530 John Lewson  
 1531 Thomas Keen  
 1532 Thomas Hurst  
 1533 Thomas Gibbons  
 1534 William Underwood  
 1535 Hugh Turner  
 1536 Richard Turner  
 1537 Christopher Veasey  
 1538 Richard Veasey  
 1539 Thomas Yardley  
 1540 John Harman  
 1541 John Fisher, sen.  
 1542 Thomas Gibbons  
 1543 Robert Pudsey  
 1544 William Harman  
 1545 Thomas Lisle  
 1546 George Charnley  
 1547 John Harman  
 1548 Thomas Keene  
 1549 William King  
 1550 Henry Sedgwick  
 1551 Thomas Lisle  
 1552 George Biggins  
 1553 John Fisher  
 1554 Robert Pudsey  
 1555 John Hargrave  
 1556 Christopher Veasey  
 1557 William Gibbons  
 1558 Richard Turner  
 1559 Thomas Blackham  
 1560 John Nurthall  
 1561 Humphry Fisher  
 1562 Nicholas Turner  
 1563 Thomas Lisle  
 1564 Richard Turner

A.D.  
 1565 Simon Ashford  
 1566 Thomas Keene  
 1567 William Davenport  
 1568 Ditto  
 1569 William Gibbons, sen.  
 1570 Thomas Blackham  
 1571 John Veasey  
 1572 Richard Turner  
 1573 Thomas Gibbons  
 1574 Hugh Smallwood  
 1575 John Duckett  
 1576 Thomas Gibbons  
 1577 Ralph Harman  
 1578 John Harman  
 1579 Raphael Sedgwick  
 1580 Simon Parratt  
 1581 Thomas Gibbons  
 1582 George Pudsey  
 1583 Raphael Symonds  
 1584 Francis Clapham  
 1585 William Hawkesford  
 1586 John Sharp  
 1587 Raphael Symonds  
 1588 Raphael Sedgwick  
 1589 John Harman  
 1590 Simon Parratt  
 1591 Raphael Harman  
 1592 William Gibbons  
 1593 Raphael Massey  
 1594 George Heath  
 1595 Raphael Symonds  
 1596 John Blackham  
 1597 Simon Veasey  
 1598 Raphael Sedgwick  
 1599 Robert Field  
 1600 William Gibbons

A.D.	A.D.
1601 Richard Sharp	1646 John Yardley
1602 Thomas Yardley	1647 Edward Yardley
1603 Raphael Symonds	1648 Richard Summerland
1604 George Pudsey	1649 William Hill
1605 Thomas Taylar	1650 George Pudsey
1606 Thomas Stanton	1651 Thomas Addyes, jun.
1607 William Gibbons, sen.	1652 Francis Wass
1608 George Heath	1653 John Allport
1609 John Blackham	1654 Robert Freeman
1610 Edward Willoughby	1655 Thomas Veasey
1611 Hugh Turner	1656 Joseph Powell
1612 William Fisher	1657 Abraham Pemberton
1613 John Scott	1658 Richard Swinfen
1614 Richard Sharp	„ Raphael Sedgwick
1615 Edward Willoughby	1659 John Rostell
1616 Keneline Yardley	1660 John Turner
1617 Ralph Cowper	1661 Ambrose Cooper
1618 Thomas Taylor	1662 William Wood
1619 Randle Spooner	1663 Thomas Cater
1620 William Fisher	1664 William Chancey
1621 Edward Willoughby	1665 Thomas Scott
1622 John Scott	1666 Gowen Priest
1623 Walker Peyton	1667 Raphael Sedgwick
1624 Edward Willoughby	1668 Thomas Addyes
1625 George Heath	1669 Richard Ford
1626 Robert Holmes	1670 John Alport
1627 John Turner	1671 Ralph Cooper
1628 William Hawkesford	1672 William Taylor
1629 Henry Sedgwick	1673 George Keates
1630 John Jackson	1674 John Addyes
1631 Francis Wass	1675 Edward Bennett
1632 John Hall	1676 William Wood
1633 Thomas Addyes, sen.	1677 Henry Sedgwick
1634 Edward Willoughby	1678 John Thompson
1635 Raphael Sedgwick	1679 William Alport
1636 George Pudsey	1680 Richard Turner
1637 John Burgess, A.M.	1681 John Cooper
1638 Christopher Veasey	1682 Joseph Mason
1639 Richard Turner, jun.	1683 Thomas Miles
1640 Richard Scott	1684 John Eagles
1641 William Hawkesford	1685 George Cater
1642 Thomas Addyes, jun.	1686 John Cook
1643 John Priest	1687 Edward Bennett
1644 Richard Turner, jun.	1688 John Addyes
1645 John Heath	1689 John Cooper

A.D.		A.D.	
1690	William Gibbons	1733	William Hilliard
1691	Thomas Wright	1734	Christopher Veasey
1692	Thomas Addyes	1735	John Rochford
1693	Henry Sedgwick	1736	John Lee
1694	William Alport	1737	Ditto
1695	Edward Bennett	1738	Thomas Eaves
1696	Gowen Priest	1739	Samuel Kempson
1697	John Thompson	1740	Richard Woodhouse
1698	George Cater	1741	Ditto
1699	Henry Hurst	1742	Joseph Gibbons
1700	John Cook	1743	Ditto
1701	Thomas Jesson	1744	Robert Dunckley
1702	Henry Wright	1745	John Welch
1703	Thomas Wright	1746	Abraham Austin
1704	Edward Parker	1747	Ditto
1705	Richard Ashford	1748	John Kendrick
1706	William Lunn	1749	Ditto
1707	Thomas Cowper	1750	John Austin
1708	Edward Sheldon	1751	Ditto
1709	Nathaniel Ford	1752	Thomas Woodhouse
1710	Henry Hurst	1753	John Orton
1711	John Clifton	1754	Ditto
1712	John Barnes	1755	John Kendrick
1713	Edward Bennett	1756	Nicholas Dolphin
1714	Henry Gibbons	1757	Ditto
1715	John Day	1758	Robert Powell
1716	Ditto	1759	Thomas Weaman
1717	Thomas Aldridge	1760	Joseph Duncomb
1718	Thomas Wright	1761	Ditto
1719	Thomas Cooper	1762	Rev. John Riland
1720	Thomas Hunnyborne	1763	Rev. William Inge
1721	Ditto	1764	Edward Croxall, jun.
1722	Henry Hurst	1765	Thomas Terry
1723	John Wood	1766	Ditto
1724	John Whyte	1767	Joseph Oughton
1725	Peter Kinnersey	1768	Alldersley Dicken
1726	Pudsey Jesson	1769	Ditto
1727	Ditto	1770	Rev. Benjamin Spencer
1728	John Ryland	1771	Rev. R. B. Riland
1729	Thomas Brookes	1772	William Webb
1730	Josiah Hunnyburne	1773	Joseph March
„	Henry Stibbs	1774	Ditto
1731	Ditto	1775	Robert Lawley
1732	William Devitts	1776	Ditto
„	William Hilliard	1777	Joseph Finch

A.D.		A.D.	
1778	Francis Gamble	1821	Edward Lambley
1779	Ditto	1822	Rev. W. R. Bedford
1780	Rev. Francis Blick	1823	G. H. W. F. Hartopp
1781	Ditto	„	Sir E. C. Hartopp, bart.
1782	John Plant	1824	John Smith
1783	Ditto	1825	Ditto
1784	Rev. James Hastings	1826	Charles Cooper
1785	Ditto	1827	Ditto
1786	Rowland Mainwaring	1828	Rev. James Packwood
1787	Ditto	1829	Ditto
1788	William Cary	1830	Ditto
1789	Ditto	1831	Rev. Hyla Holden
1790	Willam Tayler	1832	Ditto
1791	Ditto	1833	George Browne
1792	William Kendrick	1834	Ditto
1793	Prichard Smith	1835	W. E. C. Hartopp
1794	Ditto	1836	Charles Barker
1795	Rev. Robert Boon	1837	Ditto
1796	Ditto	1838	Henry Grimes, jun.
1797	Thomas Holbeche	1839	Ditto
1798	Ditto	1840	Ditto
1799	Humphrey Arden	1841	Richard Horton
1800	Joseph Shutt	1842	Ditto
1801	Ditto	1843	Baron D. Webster
1802	Gerard Gosselin	1844	Ditto
1803	Ditto	1845	Joseph Pimlott Oates
1804	Shirley F. S. Perkins	1846	Ditto
1805	Joseph Pimlott	1847	Solomon Smith
1806	Ditto	1848	James Eccleston
1807	Rev. Joseph Mendham	„	Rev. R. Williamson
1808	Ditto	1849	Robert Garnett, jun.
1809	Joseph Webster	1850	Ditto
1810	Ditto	1851	Ditto
1811	Henry Grimes	1852	George Bodington
1812	Ditto	1853	Ditto
1813	John Oughton	1854	Rev. W. K. R. Bedford
1814	Ditto	1855	Ditto
1815	Francis Beynon Hacket	„	Baron D. Webster
1816	Ditto	1856	Ditto
1817	Ditto	1857	Ditto
1818	Robert P. Nicholson	1858	Ditto
1819	Ditto	1859	Josiah Wright
1820	Edward Lambley		

Wickshire.

JOHN HARMAN, *alias*  
VESEY, bishop of  
Exeter, died 1555.

OLIA HARMAN.

WILLIAM GIBBONS, = AGNES HARMAN, died  
of Little Sutton, first 1520.  
Warden, 1529.

JOYCE HARMAN,  
wife of John Mas-  
sey, of Erdington,  
J.P.?

NOR HARMAN,  
of Robert Pud-  
f Langley, War-  
554.

MARGARET HARMAN,  
wife of Rd. Sheldon.

DOROTHY HARMAN,  
wife of Thomas Wyr-  
ley, of Hamstead,  
Handsworth; he died  
1582; she died, 1597.

Hugh.

George.

Richard.

John.

THOMAS HARMAN, of  
Moor Hall, and Can-  
well, died 1654. No  
record of him at Sut-  
ton. See Shaw's *Staf-*  
*fordshire*.

ELEANOR HARMAN,  
wife of  
William Wheatley-  
Wheatley. (?) \*

MARGERY HARMAN,  
wife to  
Thomas Thickbroom,  
of Thickbroom.

ANN HARMAN,  
wife of  
John Yardley,  
eldest brother of  
Randolph.

*Hart. MS. 1167. Several names  
Whateley in Sutton Registers.*

SIBIL HARMAN, dau  
age at her fa



# FAMILY.

{ Eliz., wife of J. Hutchinson,  
   canon of Lichfield.  
 { Mary, wife of John Davenport,  
   city of London.  
 { Ann, wife of Samuel Lockhart.

{ Elizabeth.  
 { Bridget.  
 { Catherine.

Richard Hacket,  
 cl., died 1810.

{ Mary, d. unmarried.  
 { Charlotte, wife of  
   — Crowther, esq.

Frederick  
 Hacket,  
 lieutenant  
 59th reg.  
 killed before  
 Canton,  
 Dec. 28, 1857,  
 aged 29.

{ Frances.  
 { Catherine.  
 { Elizabeth.  
 { Mary.  
 { Charlotte.  
 { Harriet.





# FAMILY.

ant.

ghter  
Bisac,

Catherine Riland,  
wife of W. Sadler,  
of Castle Brom-  
wich, gentleman.

Benjamin Spencer, LL.D.  
vicar of Aston.

Jane, wife of Captain  
Pickard, R.N.

ghter of  
of Hud-  
an, mar.

Riland, — Maria, daughter of  
erk. sir W. Wolesley,  
bart.

37,

au. Henry,  
es d. 1833.  
on,

Frances, d. 1859.  
Mary, wife of R.  
C. Smith, cl.  
Catherine.  
Elizabeth, d. 1857.  
Ann.

Francis  
and Bedford.

Campbell  
Riland Bedford.



# No. I FAMILY.

Gilbert de Elsfield,

John.

D. Gilbert de Elsfield  
20 Edward III.

Baldwin de Bereford, knt.  
d. 1 Henry VI.

Willis  
d. 21

ress,  
lon.

John Hore de Childerley,  
8 Henry IV.

Gilb

ey,  
ord







